

FREIGHT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION RAIL CUSTOMER INFRASTRUCTURE ASSISTANCE

The Michigan Department of Transportation's Freight Economic Development Program (FEDP) helps connect new or expanding businesses to Michigan's rail system. The Grant Program can cover up to fifty (50) percent of costs associated with rail infrastructure, like rail spurs. Projects are evaluated based on the public benefits, like job creation and rail volumes, relative to costs. The Program's goal is to enhance the viability of Michigan's rail system by facilitating its use.

FEDP can cover up to 50% of material, labor and equipment associated with the installation or rehabilitation of rail-customer infrastructure. Eligible cost includes, but are not limited to, turnouts (including mainline turnouts), track, ties, ballast, and related permanently affixed equipment, like unloading pits, specific to rail. Ineligible work items include engineering and car movers. A full list of eligible costs can be found on the following page. Not all eligible costs will necessarily be approved as part of the FEDP project.

MDOT provides one grant payment for up to 45% of the eligible project costs after actual costs are reported and verified. A second grant payment for up to 5% of the eligible costs is made after actual carloads are reported annually over a five-year period (1% credited for each report provided). For purposes of FEDP, new carloads should reflect the increased volume to the statewide rail system as a result of the project.

Applicants must own; hold an easement; have a long-term lease; or otherwise control the property on which improvements are proposed. Applicants can be rail customers or entities, like local units of governments and railroads, that control the property and are assisting the rail customer.

If proposed projects impact or create a railroad crossing of a public roadway, [requests](#) need to be submitted to MDOT's Rail Safety Section (MDOT Form 1425).

Applications are accepted at any time. MDOT recommends projects to the State Transportation Commission based on public benefit relative to costs. Applications are evaluated for job creation; job retention (if state is at risk of losing jobs); increased rail volume to the state's rail system; public safety; impact to the local economy and other third-party benefits. Please include any cost participation that is over and above the minimum 50%. It takes approximately 6 weeks for the necessary approvals and to award a contract. A contract is required before any reimbursable costs can be incurred.

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GUIDANCE ON ELIGIBLE COSTS

Work Items Eligible for Funding

- Construction, repair or rehabilitation of rail spur or siding (including, track, ties and ballast)
- Site preparation, including grading, excavation and removing/relocating utilities
- Turnouts
- Rail Scales
- Rail Pits
- Conveyor systems or other fixed systems needed specifically to load/unload rail cars
- Modifications to existing buildings to accommodate rail loading/unloading (including larger doors & fire-suppression systems)
- Lighting in the vicinity of the track necessary for loading/unloading rail cars
- Fall-protection systems for the loading/unloading of rail cars
- New rail bays (if not rail-exclusive, then only 50%)
- Shelter for loading/unloading rail cars
- Movable rail scales and loading/unloading systems at ports, industrial parks or transload facilities
- Work items never previously considered, but determined to be integral to rail service

Work Items Ineligible for Funding

- Engineering
- Car movers
- Commodity storage buildings
- Construction of new buildings, except for the eligible items above
- Movable rail scales and loading/unloading systems, except if the applicant is a port, industrial park or transload-facility operator

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Complete this form to request funding assistance through MDOT's Freight Economic Development Program. All attached materials will be considered part of the application. Please note that all information provided for the purposes of this application and potential project is subject to public disclosure, in accordance with MCL 15.233 (*Freedom of Information Act*).

APPLICANT INFORMATION	
APPLICANT NAME	FEDERAL ID
PRINCIPAL OFFICE ADDRESS	
CONTACT PERSON	CONTACT TITLE
CONTACT E-MAIL	CONTACT PHONE
CONTACT ADDRESS (<i>If different than above.</i>)	

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
FACILITY LOCATION
DESCRIBE THE PROPOSED RAIL PROJECT (<i>Attach plans or drawings to depict layout.</i>)
DESCRIBE THE FACILITY'S OPERATIONS & ROLE OF RAIL SERVICE

RAIL PROJECT COSTS (<i>Attach estimate</i>)	PROGRAM FUNDING REQUEST	PERMANENT FULL-TIME JOBS CREATED
NEW ANNUAL CARLOADS PROJECTED		FACILITY'S EXISTING CARLOAD VOLUME, IF ANY
WILL ANY NEW CARLOADS BE TRANSFERRED FROM ANOTHER FACILITY OWNED BY THE APPLICANT IN THE STATE? IF SO, PLEASE ESTIMATE HOW MANY.		
DESCRIBE ANY ADDITIONAL PUBLIC BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSED RAIL PROJECT (Impact to local economy; public safety; associated employment; retaining Michigan jobs otherwise at risk; additional users and associated new carloads.)		
SERVING RAILROAD	CONTACTED YES NO	
PROJECTED CONSTRUCTION DATE	PROJECTED RAIL OPERATIONS DATE	
CERTIFICATION		
THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE APPLICATION, INCLUDING ATTACHMENTS, IS TRUE AND COMPLETE.		
NAME	TITLE	
SIGNATURE		DATE