



# Research Administration

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## Developing Research Projects for 2027 through 2029

*Steps for putting research to work for you*

What information do you need to do your job better? What problems do you need to solve? The Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Research Administration is here to help. Below are the steps involved in requesting and carrying out a research project. You are not alone in this process. Research Administration will provide guidance and support to you every step of the way. In addition, Research Administration has a department-wide committee structure to guide and manage the entire process. You will have plenty of help from other staff and managers throughout the life of the project.

Below you will find the general steps in the research process and when they occur:

- 1. Submit a Research Idea** (September - October 2025)  
Anyone may submit a research idea. Use the idea to briefly explain what issues or challenges need to be addressed through research. MDOT selects research ideas that will be further considered at the Research Program Development meetings.
- 2. Research Idea Selection** (November 2025 - February 2026)  
The MDOT Research Executive Committee and Research Advisory Committee review submitted research ideas and which ideas will be selected for project development.
- 3. Research Problem Statement Development** (February - April 2026)  
The MDOT staff person assigned to the project (project manager) develops a problem statement for the research idea that details the project objectives, tasks, anticipated deliverables, and implementation to address the research problem. Project managers begin to reach out to key focus area experts to comprise their research advisory panel for the project and prepare for the Research Program Development meetings.
- 4. Attend the Research Program Development Meetings** (May 2026)  
MDOT holds a meeting for each proposed project. The MDOT project manager presents their problem statement to transportation stakeholders, colleagues and other technical experts from both within and outside of MDOT. The presentations of the problem statements tell potential researchers what projects MDOT will be working on in the new program, what MDOT needs to learn from these research projects and how the results will be used. The discussion from the development meetings can assist project managers with additional insight as they complete their problem statement.
- 5. Research Problem Statement Approval and Research Program Approval** (Mid-May - August 2026)  
The MDOT Research Executive Committee and Research Advisory Committee approve problem statements and the research program as a whole.
- 6. Solicit Proposals from Researchers** (Begins October 2026)  
MDOT invites researchers to submit proposals for carrying out the research described in each problem statement.

To put research to work for you today, contact the MDOT Research Administration by phone at 517-281-4004 or via email at [MDOT-Research@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDOT-Research@Michigan.gov).

If you require assistance accessing this information or require it in an alternative format, contact MDOT's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) coordinator at [www.Michigan.gov/MDOT-ADA](http://www.Michigan.gov/MDOT-ADA).