

## Chapter 6. Conclusions and Next Steps

As has been stated throughout this report, the economic vitality of Michigan is linked to the quality of its transportation system. This report identifies and profiles the corridors and International Border Crossings whose efficient operations are critical to keeping Michigan economically competitive. This report is only an initial step in identifying and implementing the best strategies, policies, programs, and priorities to address the issues and conditions raised in the *MI Corridor or Highest Significance Profile – Executive Report I* and *Economic Regions Corridor Summaries – Executive Report II*. Several next steps are needed to use the findings to implement a comprehensive corridor-based transportation program that supports Michigan in its efforts to regain its leadership position as a global economic engine.

### 6.1 Significance of being a Corridor of Highest Significance

Improvements to specific corridors serving particular economic sectors can improve Michigan's economic competitiveness. A corridor-based analysis allows for the development of a vision with specific goals for achieving the vision within the area. An examination of the areas allows MDOT to pinpoint any bottlenecks, gaps, or obstacles and to identify remedies, in order to provide functional and efficient movements throughout the transportation network.

It follows that improvements to specific corridors serving particular economic sectors can improve Michigan's economic competitiveness. These beliefs are confirmed based on the study findings of this report, through the corridor profiles in the *MI Corridors of Highest Significance Profile – Executive Report I* and *Economic Regions Corridor Summaries – Executive Report II*.

**Chapter 3** presents and discusses how MDOT will treat the Corridors of Highest Significance differently from the other corridors in the state. It includes recommendations for establishing specific policies to guide the management, operations, and investment decisions relative to transportation facilities within *MI Transportation Plan* Corridors of Highest Significance. These concepts will be evaluated individually and in conjunction with a comprehensive review of the corridor profiles.

### 6.2 Performance Measures

**Chapter 4** identifies performance measures that are available to be used to evaluate the Corridors of Highest Significance. These corridor measures are a subset of, and consistent with, the performance measures used for *MI Transportation Plan*. The measures evaluate the objectives and desired system characteristics which were articulated during the plan development process by the public, EAG, MDOT leadership, and MDOT staff. A performance measure analysis was not conducted on the Corridors of Highest Significance as part of this report. This performance evaluation is critical as part of understanding and quantitatively comparing the conditions and need for each corridor. Evaluating performance of the Corridors of Highest Significance will be one of the first step's MDOT takes to implement *MI Transportation Plan*.

### 6.3 Strategies, Policies, and Programs

A number of issues and corridor conditions (such as congestion, aging infrastructure, need for modernization, additional support for public transit, etc.) are repeatedly identified in multiple corridor profiles and are identified as barriers to economic growth and competitiveness. A number of similar strategies are recommended in multiple corridors to address these issues.

A comprehensive set of strategies, policies, and programs are presented in the *MI Corridors of Highest Significance Profile Summary – Executive Summary I* and further detailed in **Appendix D**. The strategies presented are consistent with MDOT policy, the *MI Transportation Plan* vision and are compatible with the political environment and structure of Michigan. As appropriate, MDOT will seek to further develop specific corridor focused strategies and programs from the listings in **Appendix D**.

### 6.4 Corridor Plans

Finally, MDOT will develop in-depth corridor studies/corridor plans for strategic Corridors of Highest Significance that have immediate or near-term system preservation needs. These studies will identify the primary industrial sectors supported by the corridor and identify their industry-specific transportation needs. The plans will present a detailed set of programs, policies, and projects needed to improve the economic competitiveness of each corridor. The plans will address corridor opportunities, freight adequacy, barriers, gaps, and missing links. The plans will also seek to develop a prioritized list of projects, ideas and programs needed for funding and partnerships, while addressing both financial and operational needs for each corridor.