

 <p style="text-align: center;">COMMISSION POLICY</p>	IDENTIFIER	EFFECTIVE DATE
	10099	09-28-00
	SUPERCEDES	DATED
	NEW	
RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATION: Bureau of Transportation Planning		
SUBJECT: Aesthetics		

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) (Department) shall protect, preserve and enhance its existing aesthetic resources wherever possible. This will include appropriate maintenance of trunkline roadsides, right-of-way, landscaping and aesthetic improvements, as well as protection of scenic areas and historic, cultural, architectural and environmental resources wherever possible.

As design, construction, improvement or repair of state trunkline roads, bridges and other facilities is undertaken, their aesthetic and visual quality, and that of the adjacent right-of-way, shall be routinely considered. Consideration of the aesthetic issues shall take into account relative factors such as the project context; existing cultural, topographic, architectural and vegetative features; how best to make a positive community contribution; safety; maintenance; and initial and long-term costs and benefits. The Department shall review the projects listed in the Five Year Road and Bridge Program for projects which provide opportunities to make aesthetic improvements.

A corridor approach to aesthetic treatments shall be undertaken where appropriate, working in conjunction with local authorities along the trunkline. Local participation in aesthetic work shall be required through public involvement, financial or in-kind participation and maintenance agreements.

The Department shall keep abreast of national efforts in aesthetic development relating to transportation facilities, in an effort to continue MDOT’s national leadership in this area, and shall provide training in “context-sensitive” design and aesthetic awareness for its personnel.

The Department shall develop guidelines for implementation of this policy.

Adopted by the Michigan State Transportation Commission on September 28, 2000.