

# MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## Hazardous Materials Routing – International Crossings

Issued: January 29, 2021

### Act No. 166 Public Acts of 2020 (FY 2021 BOILERPLATE):

Sec. 378. With 120 days after this act becomes affective the department will produce a report related to international hazardous materials routing. The report shall include the primary and alternate routes to be used during transport. Discuss why these are the preferred routes in terms of avoiding residential areas, peak traffic hours, hazardous road conditions, etc. Include maps of the entire route that clearly identify routine stops (e.g., weigh stations), emergency response resources, and repair facilities along the route. Features of the proposed route that would require attention include the location of enforcement and emergency response resources and jurisdictions, potential road and traffic hazard, and population centers in the route.

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## Hazardous Materials Routing – International Crossings

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### Introduction, Background, and Authority

This report focuses on specific Michigan international crossings with respect to the transport of hazardous materials. Hazardous material (hazmat) is defined as a substance or material capable of posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety, or property when transported in commerce. This definition underscores the importance of minimizing risk to the public, to the environment, to public and private property (including animals and the built environment), as well as to hazmat shippers or carriers. Moreover, the definition explains the need for regulatory requirements and strict management of the transport of hazardous materials.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is the authorized agency responsible for all Non-Radioactive Hazardous Materials (NRHM) routing designations and restrictions or requirements in the State of Michigan. In addition, MDOT works collaboratively with other state agencies, including the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (formerly Michigan Department of Environmental Quality) and Department of State Police, to administer routing of radioactive materials. Michigan's roads and highways fall into one of two categories – designated routes (highways or roads on which hazardous materials may be transported) and restricted routes (highways or roads on which hazardous materials may not be transported) or routes that have specific restrictions, such as requirements for escorts, time-of-day restrictions, limitations about specific hazardous materials that may be prohibited and/or other requirements or restrictions). Michigan's hazmat routes and respective restrictions are included in the United States Department of Transportation Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's National Hazardous Materials Route Registry (NHMRR). The registry is the national repository for NRHM, as well as radioactive materials routes.

The statutory authority over highway routing of hazardous material, which has been delegated to the FMCSA, may be found at 49 United States Code (USC) § 5112. Section 5112(a) provides in part:

- (1) This section applies to a motor vehicle only if the vehicle is transporting hazardous material in commerce for which placarding of the vehicle is required under regulations prescribed under this chapter . . .
- (2) . . . each State and Indian tribe may establish, maintain, and enforce—
  - (A) designations of specific highway routes over which hazardous material may and may not be transported by motor vehicle; and
  - (B) limitations and requirements related to highway routing.

49 Code of Federal Regulations 397 provides:

- Routing requirements and procedures that States and Indian tribes are required to follow if they establish, maintain, or enforce routing designations for NRHM,
- Regulations for motor carriers transporting placarded or marked NRHM and procedures for dispute resolutions regarding NRHM routing designations,
- Motor carriers transporting NRHM shall comply with NRHM routing designations of a State or Indian tribe.

MDOT is the designated routing agency responsible for all NRHM routing designations and restrictions in Michigan, Michigan Compiled Laws 480.11a. These routing designations and restrictions apply to all motor carriers transporting hazardous materials commercially for which the use of placards is required under the Federal Hazardous Materials Regulations.

**Primary and Alternate International Routes to be Used During Transport**

Michigan does not have any designated routes for hazardous material transport, and therefore there are no primary or alternate routes per se. Michigan only has designations of restricted routes, which includes four international crossings with NRHM restrictions. In Michigan, most routes allow NRHM transportation and the limited number of restricted routes are listed in the NHMRR. Transportation using other modes such as rail or marine are not part of the NHMRR and may have other requirements in those transportation sectors. The restricted routes are listed on the NHMRR as follows:

<u>Michigan – Restricted HM routes</u>						
Designation Date	Route Order	Route Description	City	County	Restriction(s) (0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,i)	
04/02/14	A	Ambassador Bridge [Detroit] from Porter St. to Canada [Windsor] [Phone (313) 849-5244]	Detroit	Wayne	1,3,6,2,7,8	
04/02/14	C	Windsor Tunnel [Detroit] from Jefferson Ave. to Canada [Windsor] [Phone: (313) 567-4422]	Detroit	Wayne	0	
03/08/95	E	Blue Water Bridge [I-69] [Port Huron, MI to Sarnia, Ontario. NOTE: In addition to the listed restrictions, Pyrophoric Liquids prohibited. Contact Michigan Dept. of Transportation for specific restrictions. (810) 984-3131]	Port Huron	St. Clair	1,5,7,9	
03/08/95	I	International Bridge [I-75] [All placarded vehicles require an escort. Contact Operations Supervisor at (906) 635-5255 before crossing. Sault Ste. Marie, MI to Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.]	Sault Ste. Marie	Chippewa	0	

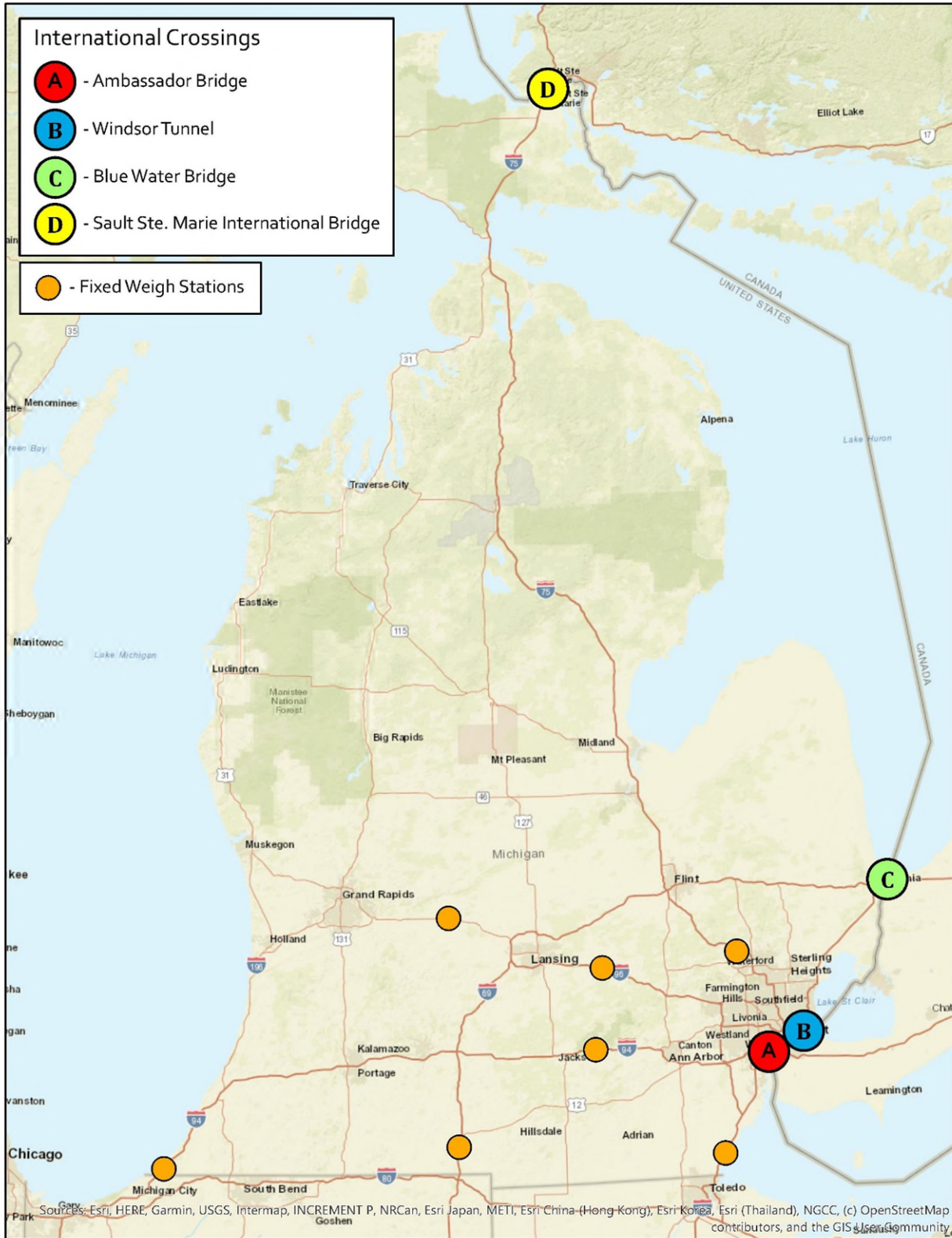
**Analysis**

A risk analysis is part of the required process and occurs when the owner makes a request for the change. The changes or special considerations may include modifications to existing or new restrictions and requirements. Such changes or considerations relating to hazardous materials happen if the current conditions to the route are modernized or if other risk factors relating to health, safety, or property have changed.

The purpose of a risk analysis, augmented by other aspects of research and review, is to indicate which classes of hazardous materials should be restricted for each of the four routes based on each respective route’s characteristics and the potential for risk to life, the environment, property and infrastructure.

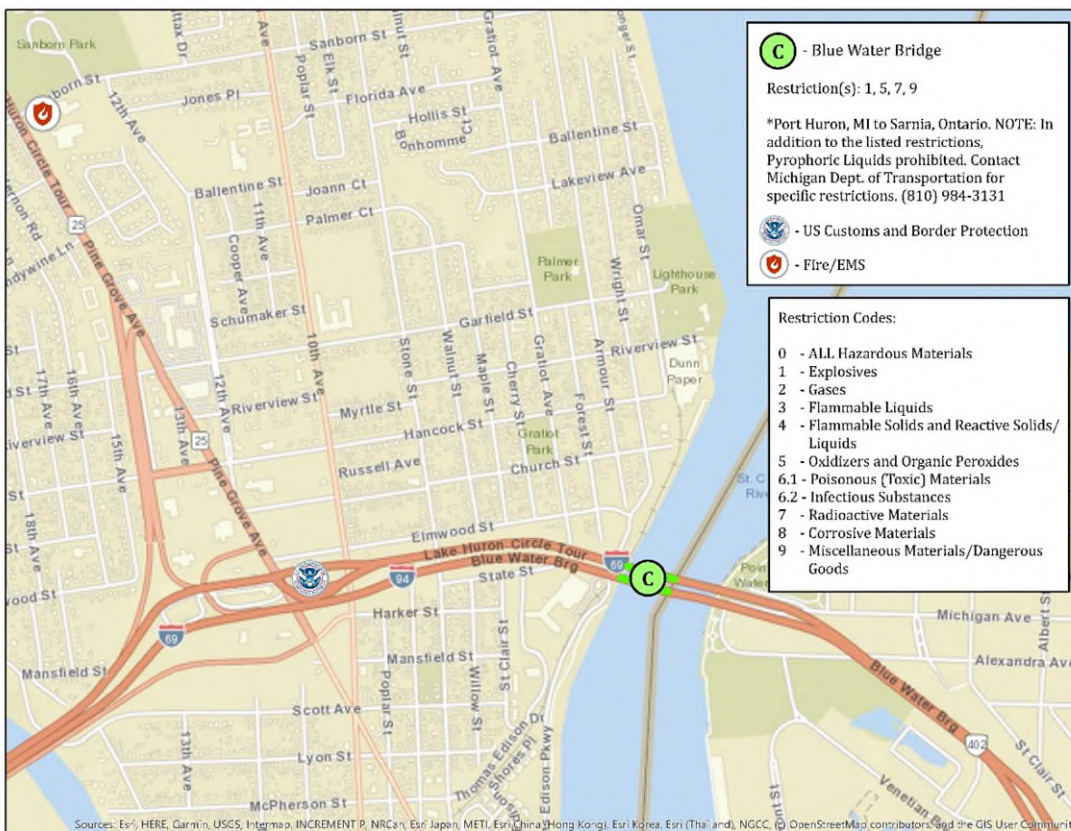
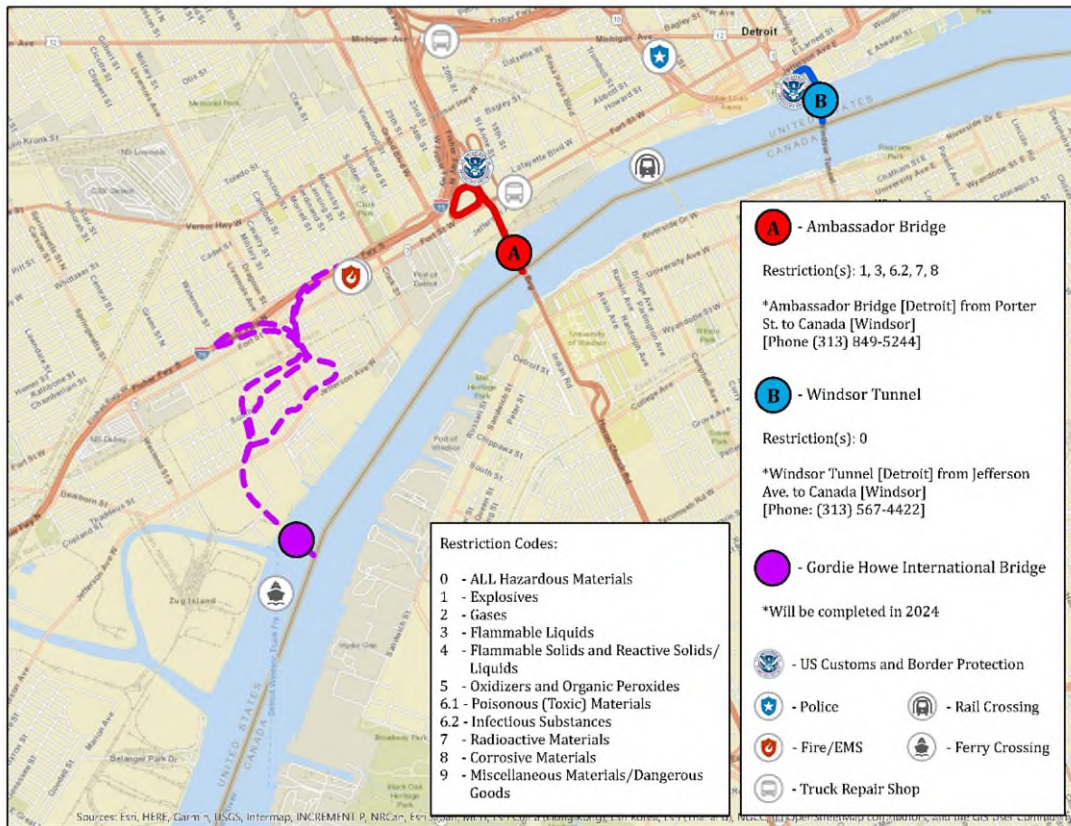
When conducting a risk analysis and determination of NRHM restrictions, the federal standards require MDOT ensure through highway routing for the transportation of NRHM between adjacent areas and a finding that the routing designation enhances public safety including adequate risk reduction in avoiding residential areas, certain times of day which includes peak traffic areas, and times during hazardous road conditions. When the analysis represents a neutral or no net change in risk reduction overall, MDOT does not make a change.

## Maps Identifying Routes





Maps Identifying Routes (continued)





Maps Identifying Routes (continued)

