Introduction to County Road Agencies

House Transportation Committee • March 3, 2015

County Road Association of Michigan

CRA County Road Association of Michigan

What is a county road agency?

78 county road commissions ...

... and 5 county road departments.

P.A. 283 (1909) created county road commissions to:

- Maintain high-quality, cost-efficient roads and bridges for Michigan residents.
- Develop county-wide seamless systems of roads, bridges across the state under local control.

Michigan County Road Agencies

Responsible for 73% of Michigan's road miles.

= 90,210 miles of roads (124,001 total)

27,277 miles of primary roads
62,933 miles of local roads

= 5,700 bridges (10,811 total)

= and thousands of culverts.

Quick Fact: Michigan has 4th-largest system of local roads in US.

Michigan County Road Agencies

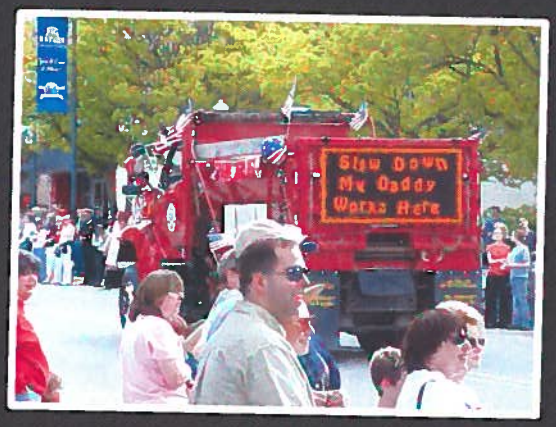
Maintain highways in 63 counties under 4-year contracts with MDOT.

- Maintenance: Snow clearing, salting, pot hole patching, replacing guardrails. In summer, also mowing, vegetation control, roadside clean-up, ditching and more.
- Sometimes counties subcontract mowing, other tasks.

Michigan county road workers are ...

Public employees ...

- On the job by 7 a.m.
- On-call 24/7, 365
- First responders in severe weather conditions.



We are public servants with business attitude.

County road commissioners are ...

Boards of Directors for county road commissions

- 3 or 5 members
- Appointed or elected ...
  - 43 boards appointed by county government (55%)
  - 35 boards elected in countywide elections (45%)
- Salary, benefits set by county board of commissioners
- Responsive to needs of community

Collaboration is core value for county road agencies

83 counties – grass roots, community connections, media oversight

9 peer-to-peer councils – quarterly

7 subcommittees

3 regional associations – biannual meetings

Multiple neighborhood groups – "frugal 5"

1 statewide association

CRA County Road Association OF MICHIGAN

County Road Association of Michigan

Since 1918

83 county members

Highway Conference – 400+ attendees

4 special-focus conferences

5 staff

CRA County Road Association OF MICHIGAN

Mission:

"To help our members promote and maintain a safe, efficient local road system in rural and urban Michigan."

Innovation is a core value for county road agencies

Special-focus task forces

- Rural Task Force – regional planning
- Equipment sharing
- Regional/statewide purchasing
- CRA seasonal weight restriction website

New staff engineering specialist: CRA, MML interests

Best Practices Awards:

- Tail light foils *(Barry County)*
- Grant program bridges and fish habitat *(Oceana)*
- OPEB buy-out *(Roscommon)*
- Road Use Agreement – wind energy *(Mason)*

Efficiency is a core value for county road agencies

County road agencies are models of efficiency.

- Fiscally-constrained culture.
  - Debt and bonds are rare.
  - OPEB (defined benefit) systems on the way out
- Must save local funds to match federal funds.
- Truck fleets are aged.

Efficiency is a core value for county road agencies

Only 6-7% of county MTF goes to road agency administration

Locals have "skin in the game"

- 28 county-wide millages
- Hundreds of township millages
- Special assessments for specific road, bridge projects

County Road Agencies are trusted

Public supports local road commissions.

August 5, 2014, primary results:

- 153 local road millages on ballot.
- 94% passed.
- 72% mean rate of passage.

Since 2008, 100% of county-wide millages have been renewed.

Where public gets to vote on local road agency service, they routinely approve.

Townships, cities, villages and counties make millage decisions, often to work with county road commissions and departments.

County Road Agencies

Michigan's 83 county road agencies maintain the majority of Michigan roads and most MDOT roads.

County road agencies defined by:

- Collaboration;
- Innovation;
- Efficiency;
- Fiscal responsibility;
- And a funding shortage.

County Road Association of Michigan

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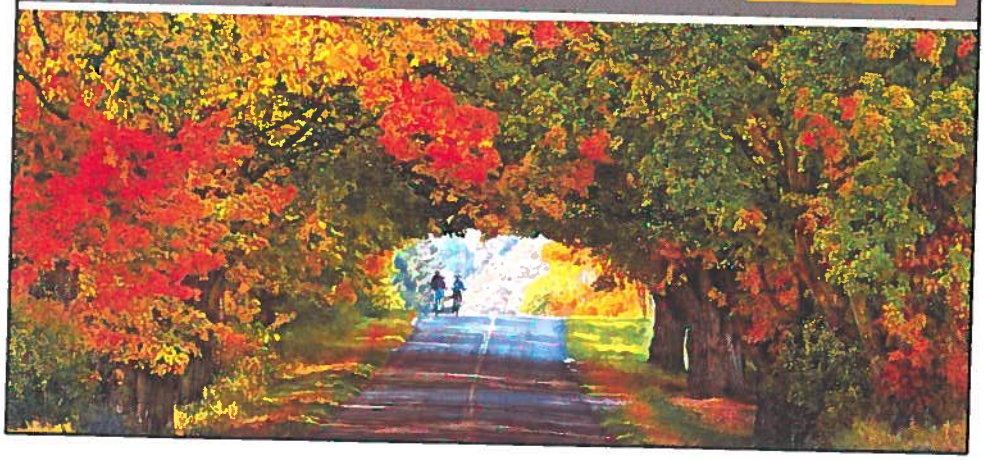

Schedule B

Distribution to Counties for the fiscal year October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013 under the provisions of Act 51 of the Public Acts of 1951, as amended.

County	(A) Mileage Transfer Amount	(B) Michigan Transportation Fund	(C) Snow Removal Payments	(D) Local Program Fund	Total
Alcona	0.00	2,287,691.86	19,984.74	83,466.15	2,391,142.75
Alger	0.00	1,725,302.53	266,463.27	62,863.75	2,054,629.55
Allegan	12,718.57	7,958,642.63	110,768.02	291,301.03	8,373,430.25
Alpena	0.00	2,963,958.33	24,694.00	108,234.27	3,096,886.60
Antrim	0.00	2,943,774.47	297,659.11	107,521.93	3,348,955.51
Arenac	0.00	2,274,377.80	0.00	82,985.75	2,357,363.55
Baraga	0.00	1,674,027.86	268,238.11	60,984.76	2,003,250.73
Barry	0.00	4,461,854.91	0.00	163,138.34	4,624,993.25
Bay	0.00	7,343,094.89	0.00	268,709.50	7,611,804.39
Benzie	0.00	2,301,793.20	141,626.65	83,987.73	2,527,407.58
Berrien	11,923.66	9,978,525.94	35,532.38	365,300.84	10,391,282.82
Branch	0.00	3,938,731.39	0.00	143,994.08	4,082,725.47
Calhoun	136,724.61	7,638,870.71	0.00	279,537.28	8,055,132.60
Cass	27,185.94	4,295,488.45	6,271.12	157,033.14	4,485,978.65
Charlevoix	0.00	2,808,216.15	126,410.32	102,547.77	3,037,174.24
Cheboygan	0.00	3,399,283.31	130,456.96	124,204.04	3,653,944.31
Chippewa	0.00	4,116,461.00	330,416.82	150,724.89	4,597,602.71
Clare	124,959.93	3,373,103.25	2,372.37	123,247.55	3,623,683.10
Clinton	0.00	5,858,035.79	0.00	214,278.74	6,072,314.53
Crawford	0.00	2,247,994.64	61,326.78	82,015.51	2,391,336.93
Delta	0.00	3,624,848.42	32,219.34	132,470.95	3,789,538.71
Dickinson	0.00	2,688,430.68	13,003.69	98,143.92	2,799,578.29
Eaton	138,632.39	7,289,671.22	0.00	266,736.99	7,695,040.60
Emmet	5,087.43	3,407,864.08	133,018.65	124,511.17	3,670,481.33
Genesee	103,656.33	20,117,067.00	0.00	736,751.06	20,957,474.39
Gladwin	0.00	2,976,680.23	0.00	108,719.42	3,085,399.65
Gogebic	0.00	2,092,242.13	265,427.94	76,310.17	2,433,980.24
Grand Traverse	0.00	6,584,108.96	165,208.41	240,908.20	6,990,225.57
Gratiot	6,627.25	4,044,757.06	0.00	147,883.99	4,199,268.30
Hillsdale	0.00	4,145,004.98	2,183.06	151,548.71	4,298,736.75
Houghton	0.00	3,331,069.07	548,604.32	121,696.83	4,001,370.22
Huron	0.00	4,678,933.10	7,566.75	171,133.93	4,857,633.78
Ingham	0.00	11,960,453.48	0.00	437,846.17	12,398,299.65
Ionia	0.00	4,430,310.79	0.00	161,978.83	4,592,289.62
Iosco	1,314.93	3,335,383.74	763.18	121,837.00	3,459,298.85
Iron	0.00	2,032,663.84	86,612.39	74,126.71	2,193,402.94
Isabella	0.00	4,899,763.64	0.00	179,197.09	5,078,960.73
Jackson	4,133.53	10,048,035.53	0.00	367,844.76	10,420,013.82
Kalamazoo	0.00	12,597,313.29	2,999.49	461,146.00	13,061,458.78
Kalkaska	19,070.71	2,855,754.91	219,240.58	104,291.27	3,198,357.47
Kent	0.00	28,355,343.56	9,684.73	1,038,666.21	29,403,694.50
Keweenaw	0.00	1,016,838.38	127,220.83	36,900.18	1,180,959.39
Lake	0.00	2,524,829.29	76,525.36	92,163.84	2,693,518.49
Lapeer	236,724.35	6,273,844.85	0.00	229,547.80	6,740,117.00
Leelanau	7,154.19	2,527,823.58	173,485.10	92,266.70	2,800,729.57
Lenawee	0.00	6,715,632.83	0.00	245,736.08	6,961,368.91
Livingston	0.00	11,906,875.82	0.00	435,854.43	12,342,730.25
Luce	0.00	1,480,199.70	161,321.50	53,886.50	1,695,407.70
Mackinac	0.00	2,077,631.95	96,811.83	75,769.76	2,250,213.54
Macomb	111,654.46	36,497,893.69	0.00	1,336,856.91	37,946,405.06

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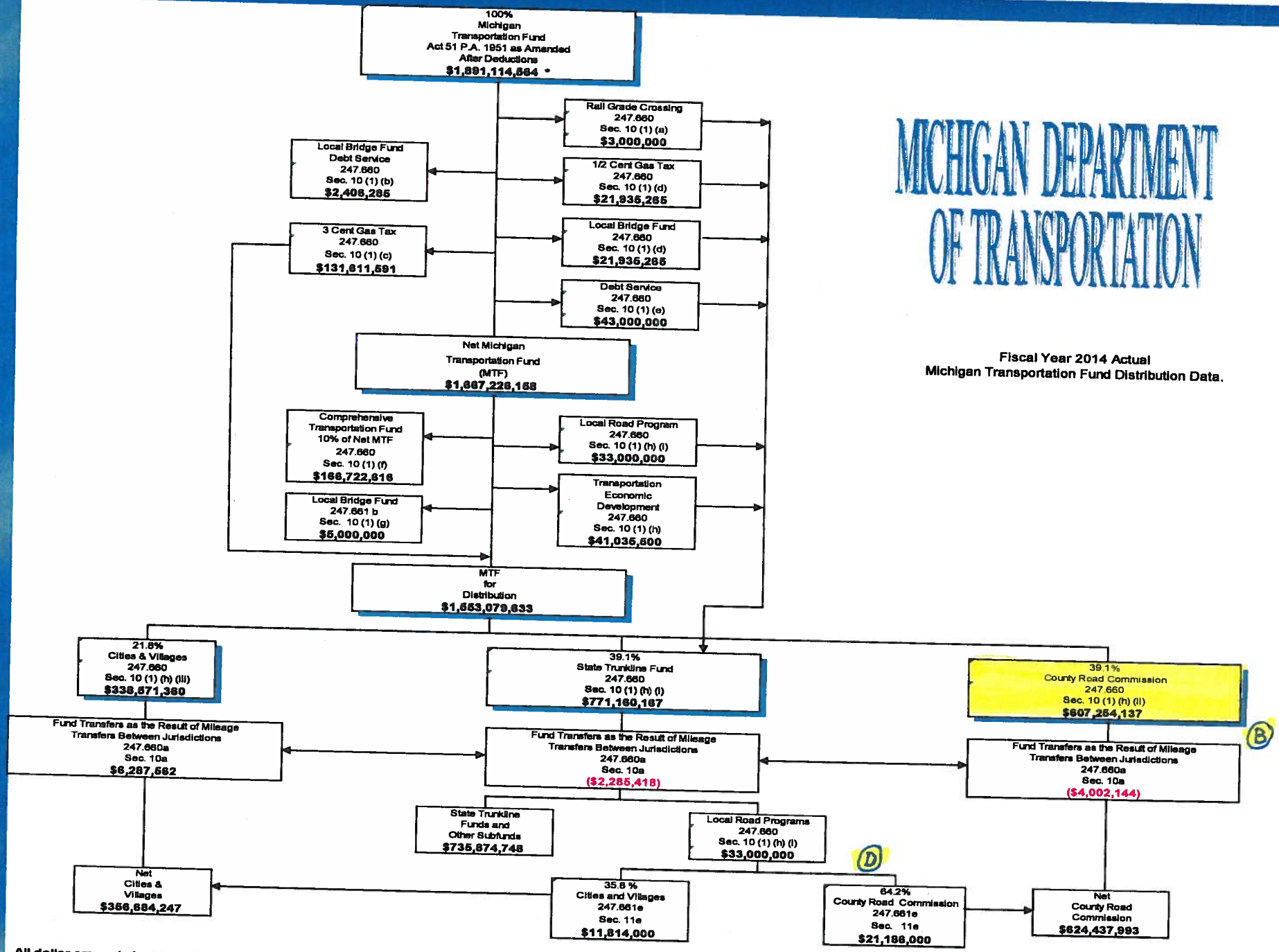
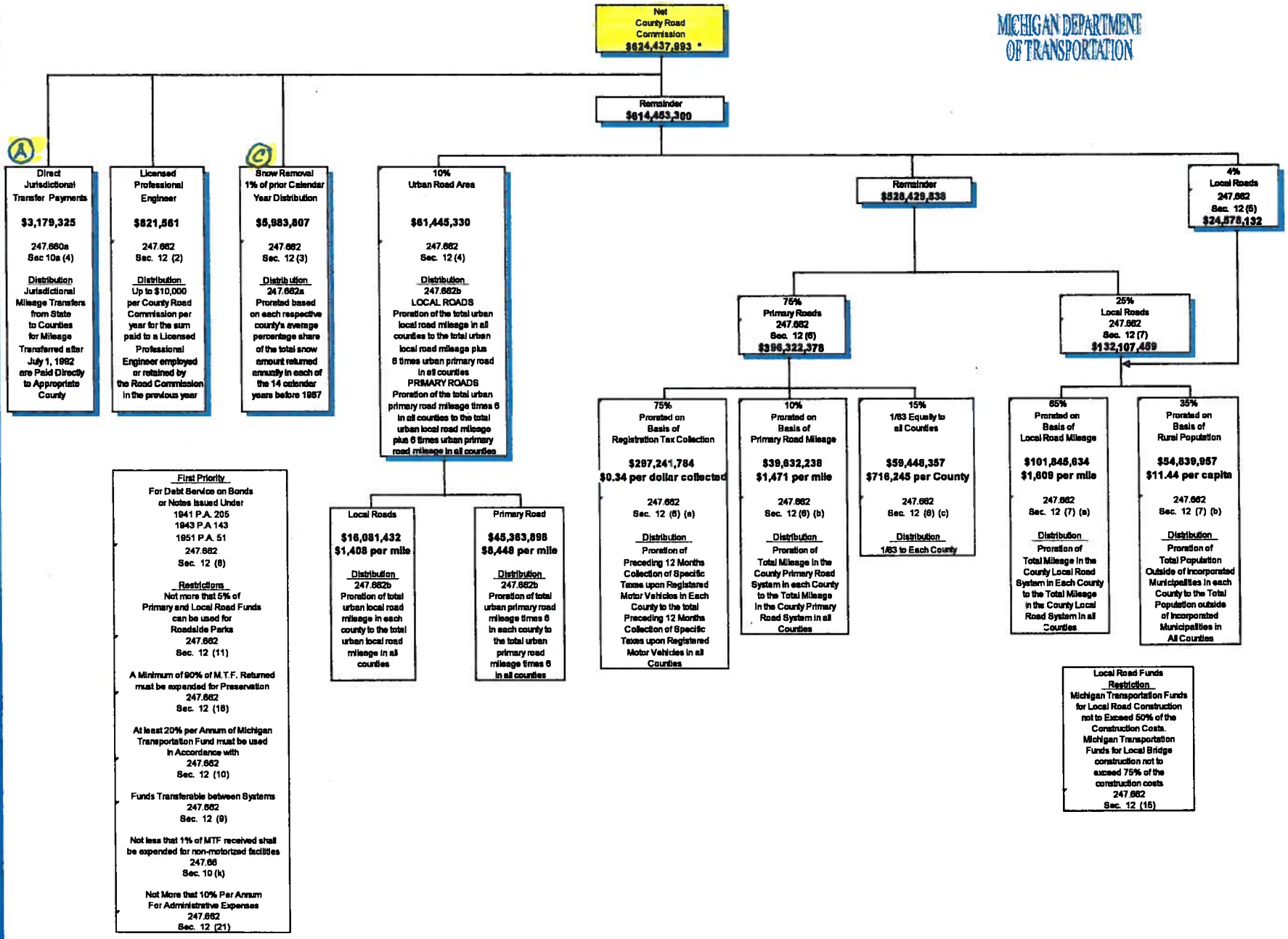
Manistee	27,503.90	3,322,254.41	136,722.16	121,376.87	3,607,857.34
Marquette	11,287.73	5,072,131.55	384,614.64	185,480.44	5,653,514.36
Mason	113,513.22	3,314,732.92	112,891.92	121,104.45	3,662,242.51
Mecosta	30,206.60	3,783,683.84	11,222.93	138,286.71	3,963,400.08
Menominee	0.00	3,220,353.76	2,455.20	117,656.02	3,340,464.98
Midland	0.00	5,405,831.20	0.00	197,716.92	5,603,548.12
Missaukee	127,344.66	2,604,949.07	39,431.12	95,107.49	2,866,832.34
Monroe	4,769.46	9,990,076.08	0.00	365,674.83	10,360,520.37
Montcalm	40,699.42	5,250,716.32	248.48	192,036.40	5,483,700.62
Montmorency	16,729.05	2,033,959.17	30,621.98	74,175.86	2,155,486.06
Muskegon	31,160.49	8,732,914.36	80,986.14	319,647.45	9,164,708.44
Newaygo	476,310.37	4,628,105.10	35,118.25	169,236.02	5,308,769.74
Oakland	0.00	58,035,351.30	0.00	2,125,747.40	60,161,098.70
Oceana	228,616.26	3,293,503.53	119,086.13	120,346.67	3,761,552.59
Ogemaw	0.00	2,838,500.22	0.00	103,660.49	2,942,160.71
Ontonagon	152,304.85	1,826,152.18	310,088.93	66,562.72	2,355,108.68
Osceola	231,954.88	3,028,482.92	24,735.41	110,609.03	3,395,782.24
Oscoda	0.00	2,123,238.05	8,176.12	77,764.07	2,209,178.24
Otsego	1,078.24	3,293,059.02	216,601.98	120,309.82	3,631,049.06
Ottawa	10,492.82	16,120,079.34	60,119.89	590,240.45	16,780,932.50
Presque Isle	0.00	2,444,430.04	68,248.67	89,227.15	2,601,905.86
Roscommon	0.00	3,550,651.75	7,140.79	129,721.24	3,687,513.78
Saginaw	0.00	12,110,391.97	0.00	443,401.37	12,553,793.34
Sanilac	0.00	5,050,813.72	0.00	184,735.05	5,235,548.77
Schoolcraft	0.00	1,662,967.88	118,926.39	60,581.83	1,842,476.10
Shiawassee	17,329.05	4,967,472.66	0.00	181,686.96	5,166,488.67
St. Clair	340,857.62	9,721,283.46	0.00	355,864.06	10,418,005.14
St. Joseph	0.00	4,448,732.12	0.00	162,668.40	4,611,400.52
Tuscola	0.00	5,283,269.20	0.00	193,248.59	5,476,517.79
Van Buren	47,744.95	5,583,485.32	49,393.91	204,253.92	5,884,878.10
Washtenaw	0.00	16,404,900.89	0.00	600,592.88	17,005,493.77
Wayne	0.00	56,221,162.63	0.00	2,060,156.73	58,281,319.36
Wexford	228,775.24	3,511,455.71	155,204.20	128,313.08	4,023,748.23
Subtotal	**3,086,247.09**	**578,985,590.60**	**5,916,153.04**	**21,186,000.00**	**609,173,990.73**
Rounding Factors	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**
Grand Total	**3,086,247.09**	**578,985,590.60**	**5,916,153.04**	**21,186,000.00**	**609,173,990.73**

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Fiscal Year 2014 Actual
Michigan Transportation Fund Distribution Data.



All dollar amounts based on actual cash basis distribution, including Local Road Program for the fiscal year of October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014.



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