



COUNTY ROAD ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

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Talking Points- SB 203

Summary:

Senate Bill 203, introduced by Sen. Barcia (D- Bay), amends Act 51 by creating a new Highway-Railroad Grade Crossing account within the Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF), \$3 million annually would be allocated from off-the-top MTF funds.

CRAM position:

CRAM opposes this legislation.

Talking Points:

- \$3 million is currently allocated to the State Trunkline Fund in off-the-top MTF funding for Highway-Railroad Grade Crossings. This legislation would transfer an additional \$3 million in off-the-top MTF funding to the State Trunkline Fund for a new account, the “Grade Crossing Surface Account.”
- At a time when revenues available to road agencies is decreasing and costs of construction materials are skyrocketing, it is not feasible to remove off-the-top funds at the peril of local road agencies.
- There is an entire category of Federal Stimulus money available for railroad grade crossings. The state should not seek to increase funding for these special programs until all federal funds available have been exhausted.
- Creating an additional diversion of funds to a specific program diminishes the ability of road agencies to fund necessary improvements. If grade crossings are an issue in any jurisdiction, they can use their MTF revenues to address the problem.