Transportation is a vital component of Michigan’s economy, providing a network of options that all travelers rely upon every day, whether by auto, truck, bicycle, walking, or public transit. Main streets on state trunkline serve an important role in supporting the state’s economy and transportation system.

The Guidance for Trunkline Main Streets document was developed by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to serve communities and public agencies in Michigan that seek to study or implement modifications, improve multi-modal transportation options, and provide greater accessibility for residents, visitors, and businesses along trunkline main streets.

Trunkline main streets are located throughout Michigan in all types of settings, including urban, suburban, and rural areas. Trunkline Main Streets are non-freeway arterials on MDOT business loops, business routes, M routes and US routes. These types of corridors provide access for a community, such as a downtown, major activity center, historic district, or a larger urbanized area.

Communities and public agencies may also use this document as a resource to begin a dialogue with MDOT, and help develop a vision for their respective trunkline main street corridor. The contents reflect engineering, design, and planning practices and standards. The document also highlights recent updates to policies and manuals that improve multi-modal transportation and design flexibility. Web links to state and national resources are provided in the last section.

MDOT is committed to working with public agencies, partners and stakeholders in Michigan to develop collaborative approaches for the planning, design and implementation of projects on trunkline main streets. Effective collaboration on projects requires well-established two-way communication at the onset between MDOT and the community or public agency. It is important to develop mutually agreed-upon expectations, and foster a cooperative spirit to help achieve the completion of a trunkline main street project.

The document is available at MDOT’s website – Guidance for Trunkline Main Streets