

MITA LOOKS BACK AT THE 2010 LEGISLATIVE YEAR



THE LAME DUCK SESSION CAME AND WENT IN 2010 WITHOUT FIXING OUR STATE'S AILING ROAD FUNDING SYSTEM. AS A RESULT, THERE IS OBVIOUS DISAPPOINTMENT WHEN LOOKING BACK AT THIS YEAR'S LEGISLATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS. BECAUSE A HIGHWAY-FUNDING FIX REMAINS MITA'S TOP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY, IT IS EASY TO FORGET SOME OF THE NOTABLE SUCCESSES OF THIS PAST YEAR.

LEGISLATIVE

MITA SUCCESSFULLY LOBBIED LEGISLATORS TO INCREASE THE HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION BUDGET TO AVOID LOSING FEDERAL HIGHWAY DOLLARS BECAUSE OF A LACK OF FEDERAL MATCH MONEY.

A LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE PUSHED BY MITA USES 2002 CLEAN WATER BOND MONEY TO INCREASE SRF SEWER PROJECTS FROM \$150 MILLION TO \$210 MILLION THIS YEAR. THE BILL RATCHETS UP THE FUNDING TO AS MUCH AS \$350 MILLION BY 2013. THE PACKAGE (SB 1443 AND HB 6416) ALSO:

CREATES A \$40 MILLION GRANT PROGRAM FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE GREATER IMMEDIATE DEMAND. THESE GRANTS PROVIDE UP TO \$1 MILLION FOR DESIGN AND ENGINEERING OF MUNICIPAL SEWER PROJECTS.

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, A STATE GRANT PROGRAM WAS CREATED THAT PROVIDES MONEY NOT ONLY FOR STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECTS, BUT FOR ANY OTHER SEWER MAINTENANCE PROJECT REGARDLESS OF THE FUNDING METHOD. THIS PROPOSAL, AUTHORED BY MITA, IS A WAY TO ENCOURAGE GREATER SEWER WORK EVEN AFTER THE LIMITED SRF MONEY RUNS OUT.

FORMED A STATEWIDE TASK FORCE IN 2011 THAT WILL REVIEW LONG-TERM SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING NEEDS.

PROVIDES \$150 MILLION IN MONEY FOR BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

ONE BILL SENT TO THE GOVERNOR WOULD CONTINUE THE FUNDING OF UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK CLEAN UP EFFORTS. SENATE BILL 1267 WOULD MAINTAIN THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION REGULATORY FEE OF 7/8 CENT ON EACH GALLON OF REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS SOLD IN THE STATE IN ORDER TO PAY FOR THE CLEAN UP EFFORTS.

MANY OF THE STATE'S UNIVERSITIES AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES GOT THE GO-AHEAD FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS ON THEIR CAMPUSES PARTIALLY FINANCED WITH STATE MONEY AS THE LEGISLATURE PASSED A BILL (HOUSE BILL 5858) WITH NEARLY \$1 BILLION IN PROJECTS.

CONGRESS PASSED A JOBS BILL TO ALLOW COMPANIES TO GET TAX BREAKS FOR HIRING UNEMPLOYED WORKERS. A NUMBER OF MITA MEMBER COMPANIES WERE ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS PROVISION WHEN THEY WERE HIRING BACK THEIR WORKERS FOR THE 2010 CONSTRUCTION YEAR.

MITA SUCCESSFULLY STALLED EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE OR REDUCE THE MBT PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX CREDIT, COMPENSATION CREDIT AND THE BROWNFIELD CREDIT. MAINTAINING THESE CREDITS MEANT BIG TAX SAVINGS FOR COMPANIES IN THE HEAVY CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

MITA STAFF STYMIED EFFORTS TO ALLOW THE STATE TO DEBAR CONTRACTORS FROM DOING WORK FOR THE STATE IF THEY HAD MORE THAN ONE MIOSHA OR PREVAILING WAGE VIOLATION IN THE PREVIOUS THREE YEARS. (HB 4282)

MITA SUCCESSFULLY OPPOSED EFFORTS TO INCREASE CONTRACTOR FINES AND PENALTIES THROUGH A NEW MICHIGAN FALSE CLAIMS ACT. (HB 4117)

MITA OPPOSED PROVISIONS OF THE “COMPLETE STREETS” LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE THAT WOULD HAVE REQUIRED A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE OF ROAD DOLLARS GO TO PAY FOR BIKE AND WALKING PATHS. ULTIMATELY, THE LEGISLATION WAS RE-WRITTEN TO REQUIRE COMMUNITIES TO CONSIDER THESE PATHS AS PART OF THEIR TRANSPORTATION PLANS, BUT THERE WERE NO REQUIREMENTS FOR A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF MONEY TO BE USED FOR THOSE PURPOSES.

ADVOCACY

MITA MADE A RENEWED COMMITMENT TO LOCAL INDUSTRY ADVOCACY EFFORTS BY HIRING NICOLE COOK AS GRASSROOTS COORDINATOR. THE EFFECT HAS BEEN IMMEDIATE AND DRAMATIC. AMONG MITA’S ADVOCACY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- HOSTED A STATE LEGISLATIVE LOBBY DAY IN MAY WITH OVER 400 ATTENDEES PRESENT, INCLUDING APPROXIMATELY 175 MITA MEMBERS THAT MET WITH 69 DIFFERENT LEGISLATORS.
- MITA STAFF MET WITH OVER 80 LEGISLATORS TO DISCUSS INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT.
- IN ADDITION TO LOBBY DAY, MITA COORDINATED MEETINGS FOR MEMBERS WITH STATE LEGISLATORS IN THEIR DISTRICTS, INCLUDING HOSTING A HALF-DOZEN “MEET AND GREETINGS” WITH LEGISLATORS BEFORE THE ELECTIONS.
- MITA ORGANIZED A WASHINGTON DC LOBBY DAY, WHERE MEETINGS WERE SET WITH EVERY MEMBER OF THE MICHIGAN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION. IN ADDITION, MITA STAFF ORGANIZED MEETINGS WITH 7 DIFFERENT MICHIGAN CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS IN THEIR DISTRICTS OVER THE SUMMER BREAK.
- MITA LOBBYISTS CONDUCTED A PRESENTATION TO THE FRESHMAN HOUSE LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS WITH NEARLY 40 HOUSE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE.

- **HELPED COORDINATE AN ONLINE PETITION DRIVE THAT GARNERED NEARLY 5,000 SIGNATURES. MITA STAFF ALSO VISITED NUMEROUS MEMBER COMPANIES AND INTRODUCED THEIR EMPLOYEES TO A TOLL-FREE PHONE CALLING CAMPAIGN THAT GENERATED ROUGHLY 1,000 CALLS TO LEGISLATOR OFFICES.**