



State of Michigan "What If" Trunkline Map Based on the MSHD State Trunkline Needs Study: 1960-1980

In 1960, the Office of Planning in the Planning Division of the Michigan State Highway Department prepared a set of maps titled the "State Trunkline Needs Study: 1960-1980," illustrating what planners at the time believed would comprise the state trunkline highway system in 1980 after two decades of construction. Many segments of state trunkline highway in 1960 were earmarked for jurisdictional transfer to counties or municipalities—quite a few of which are still state highways to this date, however. The most striking difference, though, between what had been envisioned in 1960 and the eventual state trunkline highway system is the sheer number of freeways which had been proposed. The "freeway craze of the late 1950s and early 1960s had not yet given way to the combination on freeway revolts of the late 60s and early 70s and the reality of increasingly limited funding and more stringent environmental and social justice policies.

To construct this map, a modern-day highway map of Michigan was "reverse engineered" to reflect the view of what the state trunkline highway system would look like had all of the proposed changes, additions to and deletions from the system taken place as anticipated. The 1960 planning maps not only depicted the future routes of each state highway, but also the proposed route designations and the location of all freeway interchanges.

