



Northern Michigan Floods Wash Out, Close 14 Bridges; Roads Destroyed

4/16/26

Fourteen county-controlled bridges have been closed or washed out by rushing Northern Michigan floodwaters, the Department of Transportation (MDOT) reported today.

Snow melt and heavy rain have turned trickling streams into gushing rivers in what MDOT Associate Region Engineer Bill **WAHL** described as a 500-year flood. Several roadways also have suffered heavy damage as the places that could contain water fill up.

Wahl said on [MDOT's podcast](#) that he's hoping for a federal emergency declaration, so there's money available to repair and replace the roadways and spans.

Gov. [Gretchen WHITMER](#) traveled to Cheboygan County today to get a briefing on the flooding taking place in northern Michigan from snow melt, rain and tornadoes after she expanded a state of emergency to 32 more counties.

Whitmer expanded the state of emergency to include Alcona, Allegan, Alpena, Antrim, Arenac, Barry, Benzie, Charlevoix, Clare, Crawford, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Gratiot, Iosco, Kalkaska, Lake, Leelanau, Manistee, Menominee, Missaukee, Montcalm, Montmorency, Newaygo, Oceana, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Osceola, Presque Isle, Roscommon, Saginaw, Shiawassee and Wexford counties.

“This emergency declaration will help the state deploy additional resources to help local officials and first responders protect Michigan and their property,” Whitmer said.

Whitmer had previously declared a state of emergency for Cheboygan County because of the flooding and breach risk from the Cheboygan Lock and Dam Complex, which was before a line of serious weather swept across the state, dropping at least three tornadoes and soaking an already flooded northern Michigan with more rain.

The Michigan State Police have been working with local first responders and the Department of Natural Resources to keep the Cheboygan River from breaching the dam, and that has included getting a hydroelectric plant running to get more water through.

Consumers Energy is waiting for testing of the facility at the complex to get it running.

The Michigan State Police and the Department of Natural Resources have been joined by the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Customs and Border Protection to fill and put in place sandbags (See [“Whitmer Signs EO For Fuel Supplies As Northern Michigan Flood Waters Rise,”](#) 4/14/26).

