

Meet the Moment: Michigan Must Invest in an Affordable Transportation System

As we all know, Michigan's transportation system has long been under-funded – an obstacle to our economic competitiveness and improving quality of life in our state. We're excited by the possibilities presented by the current debate over a 'roads deal'; however, we cannot afford to let this be yet another missed opportunity, dominated by a road funding vision mired in decades-old, failed ideas. We must take this moment to think beyond our old pavement-only paradigm and invest in a sustainable, 21st-century transportation system – one that works for every person and business in our state. The people of Michigan deserve a full range of transportation options that are affordable, accessible, and well-maintained. Accordingly, the undersigned agree that any 'road funding' or transportation deal must:

- 1) Invest in the full transportation system (including transit, rail, ferries, pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure, senior services, etc)
- 2) Not penalize more efficient vehicles
- 3) Not harm other essential services like schools and municipalities
- 4) Invest in 'Fix it First' approach before expanding roadways

There are a number of viable funding options, including fees structured around miles traveled and vehicle weight, that could raise revenue in a fair and effective way. Additionally, there are ways to structure increases in fuel and/or sales taxes to be beneficial, especially raising the tax on diesel. It is also worth exploring fees on parking and delivery services, especially if they can be targeted toward out-of-state corporations.

We will not support policies that punish people for choosing more efficient or electric vehicles, or people who do not drive. Additionally, any proposals that harm our schools or rob our cities and counties of funding should be a non-starter.

Transportation funding in Michigan should also be carefully prioritized to focus first on maintenance, safety, and accessibility. Common sense dictates that Michigan should not spend any state or federal funding on new or wider roads until our existing roads and systems are fully funded and well-maintained.

Michigan can do better when it comes to transportation policy, and we see this moment as an opportunity to invest in the future of our state. We can be more competitive, more livable, more forward-looking, and serve our people better by committing to 'fix it first' and investing in a full range of transportation options that serve everyone in our state, regardless of age, disability, region or income.

Transportation Riders United
Michigan League for Public Policy
Amalgamated Transit Union Local 26
Sierra Club
Disability Rights Michigan
Detroit Disability Power
Michigan Environmental Council
Ecology Center
Climate Cabinet
PeopleForBikes
Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action
Evergreen Action
Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision

Disability Advocates of Kent County
Detroit Greenways Coalition
Eastside Community Network
Kalamazoo Transit Riders Union
Michigan League of Conservation Voters
Natural Resources Defense Council
Ceres
Groundworks Center for Resilient Communities
Strong Towns Detroit
Michigan Climate Action Network
Citizens' Climate Lobby, Greater Detroit Chapter
Eastside Climate Action Coalition
Rails to Trails Conservancy

Dated 2/4/2025