

Sample Letters to the Editor

1) Jobs

Word Count: 156

Our policymakers have the power to end the neglect of our roads and transportation infrastructure, yet they continue to overlook the important role a safe, reliable infrastructure has on our economic recovery.

With such a high unemployment rate, legislators should be extremely concerned about the 12,250-plus jobs Michigan is losing due to the lack of transportation funding. Inadequate funding has delayed road projects, and continues to cause job cuts all over Michigan in construction, manufacturing, and professional and business services.

Legislators need to take action to ensure Michigan does not lose any more jobs, and they can do so by providing adequate transportation funding. As it stands, Michigan's transportation system needs an estimated \$6.1 billion to provide for basic improvements to the state's road and bridge system. This is nearly two times the current funding level!

If Michigan's transportation funding continues to go overlooked, Michigan will continue to lose jobs.

2) Economic stimulus

Word count: 172

Construction projects throughout Michigan are a sign of a healthy economy. Those orange barrels symbolize jobs for many Michigan residents; but, if our legislature doesn't act now, these jobs will be lost. Michigan residents – and its roads – will suffer dearly. Michigan will lose more than \$900 million in federal road funds before 2010 because we cannot meet the state matching requirements, halting many major road construction projects and leading to a loss of jobs. Can Michigan really afford another blow to its already struggling economy?

It is in Michigan's – our residents and businesses – best interest to increase transportation funding. We need our legislators to make transportation a priority. Our roads and bridges have waited long enough – let's not wait until it's too late.

We can no longer allow Michigan's roads to crumble while our legislators sit idly by. A strong commitment to investing in our transportation system is a necessity to ensure the economic health of Michigan. Our legislators need to invest in Michigan's transportation system!

3) Crumbling/unsafe roads

Word count: 162

Transportation funding is no longer an issue we can ignore. Michigan's roads are literally crumbling with no end in sight. Local governments and the Michigan Department of Transportation do not have the adequate funding to fill potholes in the spring and salt roads in the winter.

Michigan's legislators must act now to invest in our roads, and invest in Michigan. Legislators need to find funding soon, before we lose out on over \$900 million in federal funding because we cannot provide matching funds from the state. Our roads and bridges require an estimated annual investment of \$6.1 billion – nearly two times the current funding level – for basic improvements to the state's road and bridge system.

Michigan's roads and bridges are steadily declining. Doing nothing puts Michigan at risk for a tragedy like the bridge collapse in Minnesota –the horrific outcome of deteriorating roads. Keep Michigan's roads safe for our drivers and tell your legislators to provide adequate transportation funding now!