



Could Brinks Be Overpowered By Hall, Whitmer's Very Public Road Funding Goals?

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Both the Governor and House Speaker [Matt HALL \(R-Richland Township\)](#) have gone public with prioritizing a long-term road funding plan in 2025. But as Senate Democrats raise caution on the subject, does Senate Majority Leader [Winnie BRINKS \(D-Grand Rapids\)](#) risk being overpowered by the two on the subject?

"At some point, I wonder if Brinks is setting herself to get rolled on this ... steamrolled if the Governor and the Speaker can put together something, the pressure is then going to be on her to deliver her caucus to finish this deal," said Matthew **RESCH**, the founder of the Resch Strategies public affairs firm, on today's episode of the *MIRS Monday* podcast.

On April 16, Gov. [Gretchen WHITMER](#) said to members of the media that "all eyes are kind of on the Senate" when it comes to her and Hall's road funding aspirations.

Both Whitmer and Hall agree that all state taxes paid at the fuel pump should go toward funding roads. Also on April 16, the Senate Appropriations Committee heard testimony on House Republicans' \$3.1 billion road funding plan, consisting of [HB 4180](#) , [HB 4181](#) , [HB 4182](#) , [HB 4183](#) , [HB 4184](#) , [HB 4185](#) , [HB 4186](#) , [HB 4187](#) and [HB 4230](#) (See "[Anthony Doesn't Know How Much Money Will Be Left If House GOP Gets What They Want](#)," 4/16/2025).

On today's podcast episode, Resch and Brad **WILLIAMS** – the political affairs vice president for the Detroit Regional Chamber – discussed what other proposals might need to be ditched to make road funding happen, and whether it's strange Brinks is not mentioned during Whitmer's shoutouts on the negotiations.

"I think in the cases of Hall and Brinks' personal differences that have come up between the two of them ... I don't say it's weird. I think it's unfortunate," Resch said, referring to the tense relationship between the Legislature's top two leaders.

But Resch does see a reason to be optimistic that road funding could get done this year, describing how Whitmer and Hall are "true leaders of both sides of the aisle" who are "both articulating a desire to get something done."

"They've both been very public and forward with the fact that they want to get this done, and so it will be on both of them if something falls apart," he said. "The beauty of Michigan's Legislature is that there's always enough time to get something done, and always enough time to keep pushing it to the future."

Williams said it's important to remember that Brinks and Hall's personalities are drastically different. While Hall has a lot to share on his thoughts publicly, "that's not the style that the Senate Majority Leader has." Although conversations aren't happening publicly on the Senate side, Williams said it doesn't mean they're not happening at all.

As for an ambition Senate Democrats might need to drop to take on the road funding topic, Williams pointed to the proposed childcare tax credit for working poor households with infants and toddlers.

He put the credit in the category of "low-hanging fruit."

"If you need to start a new program with new spending, the first thing you should do is probably not reduce your amount of revenue coming in," he said.