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LEO, MDOT call for road funding plan to stabilize job numbers

The Department of Transportation and Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity jointly urged the passage of a comprehensive road funding plan on Thursday to "make sure Michiganders keep their good-paying jobs."

While unemployment numbers in July remained stable, according to a press release from LEO, the department directors stressed the importance of passing [Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's](#) "Mi Road Ahead" plan introduced back in February.

The release said Michigan was facing a "road funding crisis," highlighting that 10,000 jobs could go away without this plan, according to MDOT.

"The impacts of our road funding crisis in Michigan will be felt tenfold," MDOT [Director Brad Wieferich](#) said in a statement. "The lack of funding won't just delay necessary road and bridge projects but will also reduce high paying construction jobs by thousands in our state."

The plan would allocate \$3 billion for local communities to repair roads, around \$1 billion just for these repairs, \$250 million to create new transit options, improve road safety and lower vehicle repair costs due to more infrastructure changes. The release called it "fiscally responsible and balanced."

MDOT also estimated that without the plan, around 2,800 fewer construction jobs would be in progress next year compared to 2025.

"We currently have less than 48 days until Michigan's constitutional budget deadline," LEO [Director Susan Corbin](#) said in a statement. "Delayed or reduced funding would impact key programs and services, forcing layoffs and slowing projects that keep people

employed. The ripple effects would be felt across industries and communities, leading to job losses, reduced economic activity, and lasting setbacks for Michigan workers and families."

The release also said every \$1 million allocated to roads creates 10 good-paying jobs, and championed the increase of 10,000 construction jobs created since 2024. It also highlighted the \$24 billion allocated in the last six budget cycles, repairing 23,000 lane miles of road and 1,600 bridges.

The departments assured that their assessment of the impact of road funding and federal pressures, like tariffs, on infrastructure workforce and projects would be presented before Aug. 21.

This road funding project has been a priority for Whitmer since taking office in 2018, with House [Speaker Matt Hall](#), R-Richland Township, on board to press for a long-term solution. However, Senate [Majority Leader Winnie Brinks](#), D-Grand Rapids, said the Senate Democrats would only support the road funding plan if it was part of completing the full budget.

The talks are still ongoing on the budget, and there have been other pushes for the follow through from the Senate on the road funding plan including ads on social media from America Works USA, an affiliate of the Democratic Governors Association, urging people to call their state senators to support the plan (See [Gongwer Michigan Report, Tuesday, July 8, 2025](#)).

– By Liz Nass

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