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Greene: Population Formula Could Mean Less Money For Macomb Roads

Macomb County could lose a significant portion of road funding due to population changes if the Legislature doesn't act this fall, [Rep. Jaime Greene](#) (R-Richland) said in a statement put out Thursday.

"This is an urgent situation that requires immediate attention," Greene said. "Macomb County depends on this funding to ease traffic congestion, maintain our roads and ensure drivers can travel safely."

A portion of the state's transportation funds are distributed each year to the state's more populous counties. In 2020, Kent County's population grew, and it was bumped into the same subcategory as Macomb County in the funding formula used to distribute the funds. If nothing changes, Greene said, Macomb and Kent Counties will have to split one pot of money, which could mean Macomb will lose more than \$1 million in transportation funds.

To address the problem, Greene introduced [HB 5922](#), which would address population thresholds in the funding formula allowing each county to continue receiving the same percentage of the funds as in the past.

"I am working diligently to ensure that Macomb County, along with Kent County, does not see a drastic reduction in critical road funding," Greene said in a statement. "With the new state budget taking effect in less than a month, time is of the essence. If these funds are distributed under the current law before we can pass my bill, both Macomb and Kent will face major losses."

The specific funding Greene's legislation deals with is a drop in the bucket of the \$6.8 billion transportation budget, said [Rep. Ranjeev Puri](#)

(D-Canton), who chairs the [House Appropriations Transportation Subcommittee](#)

"We are extremely focused on making sure that all dollars are being maximized and that obviously population centers are being held harms due to economic growth," he said. "Rep. Greene's bill deals with the Transportation Economic Development Fund, which is a very small pot of money within the transportation budget, and then her bill deals with and even smaller pot of money within that."

Still, there is a larger discussion to be had about transportation funding, Puri said.

"I am extremely focused on finding a way to maximize our state dollars to make sure that we are modernizing our infrastructure," he said. "It's very important that we are continuing to maintain and build out a transportation infrastructure that meets the needs of Michiganders, and I want to be explicitly clear by doing that we want to do it in a way that is future-proof and hold all of our population centers and key counties harmless."

– By Elena Durnbaugh

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