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Road Funding Conversations Advance: Dems Gather Point People, GOP Introduces Bills

Republicans and Democrats both made moves to advance the conversation around long-term road funding on Thursday.

[Governor Gretchen Whitmer](#) met with Democrats from the House and the Senate Thursday morning to discuss her roads plan.

In attendance were [Rep. Alabas Farhat](#) (D-Dearborn), [Rep. Jason Morgan](#) (D-Ann Arbor), [Rep. Samantha Steckloff](#) (D-Farmington Hills), Senate Majority Leader [Winnie Brinks](#) (D-Grand Rapids), [Sen. Veronica Klinefelt](#) (D-Eastpointe) and [Sen. Jeremy Moss](#) (D-Southfield).

The lawmakers assembled by the governor will serve as the Democratic point-people for roads negotiations, and the governor plans to be very engaged in process, according to a source speaking on background.

House Republicans also introduced their bills for a road funding solution on Thursday (See [Gongwer Michigan Report, March 6, 2025](#)). The bill package includes [HB 4180](#) , [HB 4181](#) , [HB 4182](#) , [HB 4183](#) , [HB 4184](#) , [HB 4185](#) , [HB 4186](#) and [HB 4187](#) .

House [Speaker Matt Hall](#) (R-Richland Township) emphasized that the Republican plan requires no additional revenue, even with their proposed plan to reduce the individual income tax rate and will hold the School Aid Fund harmless.

"We can absolutely find the money within the existing resources," said [Rep. Ann Bollin](#) (R-Brighton), chair of the [House Appropriations Committee](#) . "Are there some tough decisions? I think maybe, but I would say that we have a lot of money locked up in projects."

To ensure that the School Aid Fund is held harmless, the first \$755 million in Sales Tax revenue will be set aside for the School Aid Fund,

said Gideon D'Assandro, acting press secretary for Hall.

That level of funding is equivalent to the current 20 cent gas tax earmarked for the School Aid Fund. Other revenue from the sales tax that is not already earmarked will be up for debate in the budget process.

The Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association praised the progress on roads in a statement on Thursday.

"As Michigan approaches the road funding cliff this year, significant progress is being made toward a long-term funding plan for Michigan's transportation infrastructure," Rob Coppersmith, executive vice president of the organization, said in a statement. "We're pleased that the proposals put forward by Gov. Whitmer and House Republicans both share a commitment to ensuring that all fuel taxes go toward fixing our roads and bridges and that both propose using a least \$500 million in existing state revenues. This common ground marks a strong starting point for legislative negotiations."

The Michigan Manufacturers Association expressed concern about the proposed Michigan Business tax hike proposed in [HB 4186](#) by [Rep. Steve Carra](#) (R-Three Rivers). The bill would increase the tax from 4.95 to 30 percent.

"The introduction of this bill damages Michigan's reputation as a business-friendly state, by saying the state will not honor its agreements and does not respect the companies that chose Michigan as a location to grow and prosper for generations to come."

— By Elena Durnbaugh

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