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Senate Adds \$5M Study On Electric Vehicle Revenue To MDOT Budget

A Senate subcommittee road spending plan includes \$5 million for a study into how the state can collect revenue from electric vehicles.

The Department of Transportation spending plan ([SB 761](#)) unanimously cleared the [Senate Appropriations Transportation Subcommittee](#) on Wednesday.

[Sen. Veronica Klinefelt](#) (D-Eastpointe) said the proposal agreed with many items called for by [Governor Gretchen Whitmer](#).

The \$5 million study was one key difference.

"We want to start the process," Klinefelt said of determining how to collect revenue for roads from vehicles that do not need gasoline and therefore are not contributing via the tax on fuel.

The budget also includes \$40 million more for local bus operations than what Whitmer included in her proposals. The Senate provided \$20 million in transit grants rather than the \$30 million in the executive proposal.

Additionally, the Senate budget added \$30 million for 12 infrastructure projects, which Klinefelt said would focus on improving pedestrian and public safety and increasing or improving traffic flow.

In boilerplate, the budget also includes guidance for the department on how to handle homeless individuals in an area being cleared for construction or other purposes.

Overall, the budget proposal is \$6.8 billion (\$215 million General Fund), a 2.8 percent increase (a 25.4 percent decrease in General Fund). It is higher than the governor's proposal of \$6.78 billion.

– By Alethia Kasben

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