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West Michigan Policy Forum To Lawmakers: Say No To More Taxes For Roads

The conservative West Michigan Policy Forum on Monday urged lawmakers to fund road improvements without raising taxes and fees.

[Governor Gretchen Whitmer](#), during her State of the State address last week, said new revenue and cuts would need to be part of the solution.

Whitmer has called for more than \$3 billion to go toward road improvements annually. Her plan lacked some specifics but broadly included an increase in the Corporate Income Tax, a new digital tax, an increase in fees paid by heavy trucks and a wholesale tax on cannabis. It also calls for lifting the 6 percent sales tax on fuel and replacing it with a revenue-neutral increase in the fuel tax so that all taxes paid at the pump go to roads.

House [Speaker Matt Hall](#) (R-Richland Township) has also released a plan with more than \$3 billion for roads, which includes clawing back some tax credits and repurposing economic development funds. Like Whitmer, he calls for removing the sales tax from fuel and a revenue-neutral fuel tax increase. He has proposed far more cuts in other state spending and redirecting those funds to roads.

Neither Hall nor Whitmer have said what programs they would cut.

A letter from the West Michigan Policy Forum to lawmakers said increasing the CIT would make the state less competitive and lead to higher costs and fewer jobs.

"Raising the cost of living, working and creating jobs in Michigan is the wrong approach because

Michigan already struggles to attract and retain businesses compared to lower-tax states like

Indiana, Tennessee, and Texas," the letter said. "Raising the CIT will push companies to invest in states with more competitive tax climates, reducing job opportunities for Michigan workers."

John Kennedy, chair of the West Michigan Policy Forum, praised Hall's road funding plan.

"We have the money to fix our roads by cutting ineffective business tax credits and legislative earmarks (aka 'pork')," Kennedy said in a statement. "It's time for our elected leaders to focus on fiscal responsibility instead of tax hikes."

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