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## Thursday, August 7, 2025

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# Whitmer asks department leaders for analysis of a road funding plan – or lack of one

Gov. [Gretchen Whitmer](#) requested two of her department heads provide data on how a state road funding plan could "blunt or offset" construction job losses due to federal economic policies and an upcoming funding cliff.

Whitmer, in a letter to the leaders of the departments of Transportation and Labor and Economic Opportunity, also asked for an analysis of projected job losses if a comprehensive road funding package is not enacted.

The governor called for the information on or before August 21.

The letter references the Rebuilding Michigan Plan, and how those bonds are set to end, creating a road funding cliff. A federal infrastructure program is set to end as well.

Whitmer also said federal policies, like tariffs, are creating uncertainty.

"If Republicans and Democrats in the Legislature do not come together to get a roads deal done, we could lose thousands of good-paying jobs and stall dozens of infrastructure projects statewide, creating unsafe driving conditions for families, further straining already crumbling local roads, and jacking up the cost of future fixes," Whitmer said in a statement. "Delivering a bipartisan, sustainable roads plan will provide long-term certainty for workers, industry, and small businesses as we face uncertainty and volatility at the national level. Let's get this done to make a real difference in people's lives and keep moving Michigan forward."

The Legislature has yet to agree on a road funding proposal and does not appear to be making significant headway on the budget.

The House, with some Democratic support, has passed its own roads proposal. The Senate has not offered its own plan.

Senators have said a roads plan needs to move with the budget.

Whitmer asked MDOT [Director Brad Wieferich](#) and LEO Director Sue Corbin for information on job losses if a road funding plan is not enacted and losses due to federal policy. It also asks for analysis on how a state road-funding plan could help blunt the losses.

"Without a long-term, bipartisan road funding solution, thousands of good-paying jobs will be at risk. Critical projects will be delayed or canceled, creating more dangerous conditions for drivers, further straining our infrastructure, and jacking up the cost of future projects," Whitmer wrote the directors. "This risk is compounded by economic uncertainty from Washington, D.C. Federal tariffs – both enacted and threatened – are slowing business growth and raising unemployment in Michigan. A long-term, sustainable road funding plan will provide certainty for workers, industry, and small businesses during a particularly volatile time."

– By Alethia Kasben

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