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## **Whitmer's Road Plan To Come; For Now, Budget Provides For Exploratory Options**

[Governor Gretchen Whitmer](#) is expected to provide details on a long-term road funding plan sometime next week, but in the meantime, her budget for the Department of Transportation increases funding for Michigan's roads and bridges by \$211 million.

In total, Whitmer proposed \$6.8 billion for the department. Of that, roughly \$5 billion is earmarked for state and local roads.

She also earmarked \$7.8 million in state restricted funds to explore road funding options. Of that, \$7.7 million would be a one-time appropriation from the Michigan Transportation Fund, and \$171,900 of ongoing support and one, full time employee, would be designated to conduct a study and pilot of potential road usage charge revenue options.

The governor's proposal would provide \$112.2 million in General Fund dollars to match federal money. This would ensure that Michigan fully matches all \$1.8 billion that is expected to be available in federal highway aid, documents from the executive recommendation said.

The executive recommendation also provides \$98.8 million in federal and state restricted funds to support revenue increases for state and local roads. That total reflects an additional \$71.3 million in federal funding, with the remaining \$27.5 million derived from net increases in baseline state restricted revenues.

The Department of Transportation budget would also include \$767.1 million for transit and rail programs in state restricted, federal and local funds under the governor's recommendation. That would reflect a \$4.7 million increase in federal funds and include \$2.9 million for anticipated federal transit capital grants.

Finally, the governor's recommendation includes \$5.3 million in state restricted funds for capital improvements at airports. The funding would be provided by a \$5 million increase in the State Aeronautics Fund revenues, driven by a \$2.5 million recommended increase to the state's aircraft registration fee, which was last increase in 1988, according to budget documents.

– By Elena Durnbaugh

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