



## **Governor Calling Breakfast Powwow On Roads; WMPF Says No To Tax Hike**

Gov. [Gretchen WHITMER](#) is pulling together an invitation-only gathering Thursday morning with a select group of specific legislators on ways to pull together a long-term roads funding package, according to information obtained by *MIRS*. As of this afternoon, neither House Speaker [Matt HALL \(R-Richland Township\)](#) nor any of his chief lieutenants on road funding issues were among the invited.

The meeting appears to be similar to a meeting the Governor had last year that involved a long-term transit deal that included high-speed rail coming out of a revamped Renaissance Center (See "[SOAR Reform May Open Door To RenCen Revamp](#)," 6/7/24). The enormous package collapsed on itself.

Asked to comment on the development, Whitmer Press Secretary Stacey LaROUCHE said, "Governor Whitmer has been calling for a sustainable long-term road funding solution and will work with Republicans and Democrats to get it done.

"The Governor often meets members of the Legislature on priorities, and she's also been in touch with Republican leadership on roads. The Governor will continue to work with anyone who is serious about solving problems."

In related news, the West Michigan Policy Forum (WMPF) today [released a policy letter](#) urging Michigan legislators to prioritize fixing the state's roads without increasing taxes or fees on job businesses or residents.

As recently as her State of the State address, Gov. [Gretchen WHITMER](#) said a final road solution will need to come through revenue increases and cuts. The latter isn't going to work for the WMPF.

"Raising taxes on job providers – especially small businesses – only makes Michigan less competitive," said John KENNEDY, chair of the West Michigan Policy Forum. "We cannot afford to drive job creators out of our state by asking businesses employing hard-working Michiganders to pay more.

Kennedy and the WMPF commended Hall's \$3.1 billion road funding plan, that reallocates current spending to fund road and bridge repair without new taxes.