



## Senate Aligning With Governor On Road Funding

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Senate Democrats are aligning with the road funding plan Gov. [Gretchen WHITMER](#) announced in February as opposed to developing their own idea on a long-term funding model, *MIRS* learned today.

Ideas such as a \$470 million new wholesale marijuana tax, additional fees on heavy trucks, potentially more taxes on corporations and moving to having all revenue collected at the pump go toward transportation, along with using Strategic Outreach and Attractive Reserve money are all ideas the Senate D's are moving toward, sources say.

The Senate Dems also have unspecified transportation-related priorities of their own that they'd like to be included.

Senate Appropriations Committee Chair [Sarah ANTHONY \(D-Lansing\)](#) referenced this shift today during a press conference when she said, "This is what I'll tell you, many of the concepts that the Governor put out early this year we are in agreement with, but not in isolation, right?"

"So whether it's looking at industries that disproportionately impact the quality of roads, or other creative ways for us to make sure there's shared sacrifice, I think ultimately, when we get to the point that we're building a sustainable roads plan, it's going to take a lot of creativity, both revenue as well as reductions in some of our state services," she said.

Pressed on whether this meant an excise tax on marijuana sales or corporate taxes, Anthony said, "I think you can look at some of the ones that the Governor put forward early on, so we have some knowledge there."

The ideas that Senate Democrats are most interested in pursuing, however, are those that the House Republicans are soft on, *MIRS* has learned. A House committee took testimony today on heavy trucks, for example.

Additional taxes on marijuana have not been ruled out unequivocally by House Speaker [Matt HALL \(R-Richland Township\)](#), either.

On Feb. 10, Whitmer proposed a \$3 billion long-term road funding plan that would allocate all taxes paid at the pump toward roads, impose \$1.6 billion in new, unspecified taxes on large corporations, \$500 million in government efficiencies and \$470 million on a new wholesale marijuana tax (See "[Whitmer Proposes Long-Term Road Funding Plan](#)," 2/10/25).

Today, the Governor sent out an email that stressed that while crews have fixed, repaired or replaced nearly 24,500 lane miles of road and 1,900 bridges, "without a new roads plan, we

cannot finish the job of fixing the damn roads. If we don't pass a long-term, sustainable roads plan, we risk losing the workers and resources we need to fix them.

“We need a long-term, bipartisan road funding plan so we can keep fixing our highways and step up work on the local roads that Michiganders drive every day,” she said.