



## Unions, Disability Groups, Others Want 10% Of Roads Money For Transit

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Labor unions, social service groups and hospitals are among the groups coming together to urge lawmakers to set aside 10 percent of their road funding dollars to non-road resources like buses, rail and ferries.

"We can be more competitive, more livable, more forward-looking, and serve our people better by investing in a full range of transportation options that serve everyone in our state, regardless of age, disability, region or income," reads a letter from the coalition of some 40 groups.

The Michigan Public Transit Association, the Michigan League for Public Policy, the Michigan Health and Hospital Association, Detroit Disability Power and the Environmental Law and Policy Center were among the groups who put their names to the letter.



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In March, the Republican-led House passed a \$3.1 billion road funding plan that directs any state taxes paid at the fuel pump exclusively toward funding road improvements, while

also rerouting other state dollars set aside in the past for business grants and tax credits used by the major automakers.

Although the Governor differs from House Republicans when it comes to their vision of significantly dismantling corporate incentives, she does want a road funding deal struck by the end of next month.

"The current debate over a 'roads deal' presents great possibilities; however, we cannot afford to let this be yet another missed opportunity to invest in a sustainable, 21st-century transportation system – one that works for every person and business in our state," the letter reads. "The people of Michigan deserve a full range of transportation options that are affordable, accessible, and well-maintained."

The groups point out that in her budget recommendations for Fiscal Year 2026, Gov. [Gretchen WHITMER](#) suggests a \$226 million appropriation for Local Bus Operating (LBO), nearly a 10 percent drop from the funding allocated last year.

Meanwhile, in the Senate's proposal, the LBO appropriation would be \$241 million. The organizations authoring the letter that was sent out on Tuesday want about \$440 million in LBO, restoring "the near-fully-funded levels Michigan provided in prior decades."