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Report: To Lead In EVs, State Must Be Greener, Have Better Infrastructure

The Michigan [Council on Future Mobility and Electrification](#) outlined the state's biggest mobility challenges this decade and made recommendations to push Michigan forward as a leader in mobility and electrification in its [2023 report](#).

The council found the state needs to focus on being greener and improving its infrastructure to lead in electrification.

"While our work is ongoing, collaboration is paramount to our success," said Justine Johnson, the state's chief mobility officer and head of the Michigan Office of Future Mobility and Electrification in a statement. "The council is committed to working together to identify opportunities for a holistic approach to mobility and clean technologies in Michigan. Its commitment to addressing challenges with an open mind and finding resolutions drives Michigan toward a cleaner, more sustainable and economically vibrant future."

Whitmer created the council in 2020 to ensure Michigan continues to be a leader in future mobility and electrification. The council brings together stakeholders from the government, public and private sectors and research institutions to address the challenges presented by the evolving mobility landscape.

Some of the most pressing challenges for Michigan during the next decade are the competition for mobility jobs and new research and development and risk capital investment. The state also faces the challenge of transitioning its workforce from traditional internal combustion engines skillsets to emerging automated vehicles and electric vehicle skillsets. Michigan's infrastructure and grid also need to transition from serving internal combustion engines to electric and automated vehicles. .

Other challenges include ensuring that the state regulatory environments keep pace with domestic and global markets. The report also says that Michigan should decarbonize the transportation sector to fight climate change.

This year, the council put forward recommendations centering around six key areas. Those include electric vehicle charging infrastructure and incentives for low- and zero-emission vehicles, hydrogen fuel incentives, roadway and intersection safety, intelligent transportation systems assets and communication networking mapping and a state investment fund for mobility related startups.

The council recommended growing employment in mobility and automotive-focused sectors, with a target of 20,000 new jobs by 2026, while increasing the median wage of mobility sector jobs. The state should aim to add 7,000 workers with mobility credentials by 2030 and increase diversity in the workforce. The report also said Michigan must ensure it supports at least 170,000 automotive and parts manufacturing sector jobs through 2030.

The state should focus on safer, greener and more accessible transportation infrastructure, the report said. The council recommended deploying 100,000 EV chargers by 2030 and maintaining at least 80 percent of EV charging off-peak to minimize impacts to the grid. The report recommended the state provide better access to mobility-as-a-service options across Michigan's 77 transit agencies by 2025. Further, the report said Michigan should reduce congestion and traffic crash rates statewide by 2026.

"The recommendations in this year's report underscore the state's commitment to cleaner forms of mobility and emphasize the pivotal role of strategic policy solutions in creating jobs and fostering ongoing success in our dynamic automotive landscape," Jane McCurry, executive director of Clean Fuels Michigan, said in a statement.

Michigan also needs to push to lead the world in mobility and electrification policy and innovation, the report said. To do this, the state should maintain its No. 1 ranking for mobility and electrification research and development spending, become a top 10 state for growth in venture capital funding by 2026, become a top 10 state for federal investments related to mobility and vehicle electrification and lead the nation in electric and automated vehicle friendliness through responsive policies.

"Since its inception, the council has been committed to working across government bodies, industry stakeholders, academic institutions and local communities to fulfill the vision for economic prosperity and mobility for all," Susan Corbin, director of the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity and chair of the council, said in a statement. "CFME is excited to present resolutions in this report, and we believe that by action on them, we can help make our state a place where mobility companies find long-term success."

– By Elena Durnbaugh

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