



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
LT. GOVERNOR

Dear Transportation Industry Leader,

I wanted to reach out to thank you all for the hard work you do to ensure all Michiganders can get to their destinations safely. Your dedication to keeping our infrastructure safe for our families has not gone unnoticed. I know that the past four decades of disinvestment in our roads and bridges has made your job especially difficult. Please rest assured that I am working day and night to negotiate a budget that will address the critical issues that our state is facing.

As I know you are painfully aware, it has been 177 days since I introduced a budget that would finally fix the damn roads and put Michigan on the road to opportunity. However, in the nearly six months since I introduced my budget, the legislature has still not put forth a real, comprehensive solution that I can sign.

I firmly believe that a budget is a statement of our values. That's why the budget I proposed six months ago makes real, meaningful investments in our infrastructure, public education system, and local governments. It will help us keep our families safe and ensure every dollar that is raised for our roads actually goes toward fixing them. I've been at the table ready to negotiate for 177 days, but unfortunately during that time, the legislature chose to take a two-month vacation instead of working with me to pass a budget. You deserve better. We need a real plan that will fix our roads the right way, so they stay fixed, and put every Michigander on the road to opportunity.

It's time for our legislative leaders to step up and make the bold investments we all know we need. For the first time in nine years, the Legislature hasn't completed a budget by June. They've taken the summer off and have offered no meaningful alternatives to fix our infrastructure, and just recently presented me with plans that will cut \$400 per pupil from our public education and won't raise a fraction of the revenue we need to fix the roads. Like I've said many times before, I will not accept a plan that balances the budget by making cuts to public education or balances the state's fiscal problems on the backs of local governments.

Please know that while I am working day and night to get a deal and avoid a state government shutdown, I must also responsibly prepare for that outcome. I am asking that you continue to do the best you can and if you want to lend your voice, please reach out to your legislators and tell them what a bold investment would mean to the work you do.

I have traveled all across our state, doing nearly 70 townhalls, presentations and roundtables to talk to Michiganders about why getting this right is so important to our future. The people of Michigan know that doing nothing is not an option. They're ready for real, bold leadership in Lansing that will help take us from the back of the pack to the front when it comes to education and infrastructure.

I can assure you that I will continue to fight so that you can do the good work of building Michigan's foundation and helps create exceptional places to live, work, and raise a family.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan