



GVMC/Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce Announce Street Summit II

Once again this year Grand Valley Metro Council in partnership with the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce will be hosting our West Michigan Street Summit II. Last year's event was very successful and we are changing the format to focus on receiving direct information from business leaders.

This year the focus will be on business, jobs and our street system. Road Agencies will set up booths and hear comments from business leaders with concerns about their streets.

Business representatives that are impacted by the poor quality of our streets or lack of all weather roads will be invited to meet with city and road commission representatives. Area legislators will be invited to attend as well. We will have more information in the future.

Michigan House Speaker Jase Bolger Proposes New Transportation Financing Plan. Will Present Plan at West Michigan Street Summit II

Last week, House Speaker Jase Bolger proposed a plan to generate funding for Michigan's roads. The plan will take the portion of the sales tax that now goes to the General Fund from fuel sales as well as a part of the use tax to generate \$450 million for roads. He said the plan would raise \$500 million by 2018.

While it falls short of the Governor's goal of raising \$1.2 billion, Mr. Bolger said it was a good start. Other proposals include ending the 19 cents per gallon tax on gasoline and 15 cents per gallon on diesel fuel and replace them with a straight 6 percent tax on wholesale fuel. The pro-

posal would also dedicate one-sixth of the revenue generated by the 6 percent use tax to roads.

A recent poll by the Marketing Resource Group found that sixty-five percent of voters want to use the budget surplus to fix the state's crumbling roads and bridges in lieu of a tax cut. Michigan currently ranks last in per capita spending on infrastructure while other Midwest states are increasing their spending.

Speaker Bolger will present his plan to business, legislators and road agency representatives at our West Michigan Street Summit II later this month.

GVMC Strategic Visioning Session

When: **April 24, 2014**

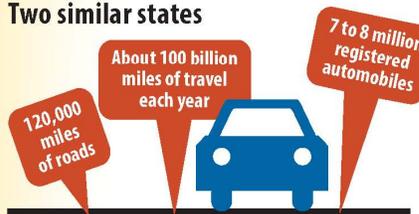
Where: **Byron Township Community Center
2120-76th Street
Byron Center, MI**

Time: **8:00-Noon**

Food: **Breakfast at 7:30**

Other states are investing in roads and bridges

**Michigan and Pennsylvania:
Two similar states**

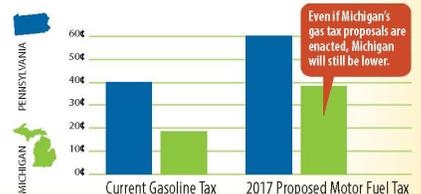


But that's where the similarities end. Pennsylvania:

- Recently decided to invest \$2.3 billion more per year by 2018, or \$180 more per person.
- Is phasing in increases to fuel taxes, registration fees and more than 100 other driver and vehicle-related fees.

	Pennsylvania	Michigan
Total Transportation Budget	\$6.2 billion	\$3.4 billion
Current Gas Tax	40.7 cents*	18.7 cents
Current Average Vehicle Registration Fee	\$36, not tax deductible	\$100, tax deductible
Road Investment per person (2010 Census) before the new tax raise	\$530 per person	\$154 per person
2013 Unemployment Rate	6.9%	8.4%

* Pennsylvania's Oil Company Franchise Tax is a tax at the wholesale level that fluctuates with the price of gas.



Even if Michigan's gas tax proposals are enacted, Michigan will still be lower.

Why isn't Michigan?