



COUNTY ROAD ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2010

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We Cannot Afford Short-term Solutions

Lansing- Today, as transportation users from all spectrums descend on Lansing, the County Road Association of Michigan (CRAM) joins other members of the Michigan Transportation Team in asking the Michigan legislature to immediately enact the comprehensive transportation funding recommendations of the Transportation Funding Task Force (TF2).

The coalition highlighted the critical need to invest in our state's transportation infrastructure by bringing motorists and advocates together from the business community, labor, transit, aviation and road users to present more than 5,000 petition signatures in support of increased transportation funding to legislators.

"It is clear that we have reached a crisis situation," CRAM Director John Niemela said, "Legislators must realize that we cannot afford short-term solutions. Although this is a difficult issue to address in an election year, short-term solutions will cost more- more jobs, more deterioration, and more to repair our crumbling roads and bridges."

While legislation has been introduced to implement the recommendations of the bipartisan TF2, these proposals have not gained momentum. Instead, proposals to identify one time revenues allowing the state to match federal aid in 2011 are being discussed.

"We must find a comprehensive solution to our transportation funding crisis that also addresses the needs of the 70 percent of Michigan roads not eligible for federal aid," Niemela said. "Anything less is unacceptable."

The County Road Association of Michigan represents Michigan's 83 county road agencies that are responsible for maintaining 75 percent- nearly 90,000 miles- of Michigan roads. Seventy-five percent of the county road system- nearly 67,000 miles- is not eligible for federal funding.

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