

Toll-free number helps drivers reach lawmakers to urge action on transportation ills

The Michigan Transportation Team (MTT) has set up a **new toll-free number** allowing state drivers to encourage lawmakers to fix Michigan's crumbling transportation system.

By dialing 888-719-3087, callers will only have to enter their five-digit zip code to be connected with their legislator at no cost to them.

"This toll-free number is a resource for anyone who has blown a tire, cracked a rim, or spilled coffee in their lap after passing over a famous Michigan pothole," said Mike Nystrom, vice president of government and public relations for the Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association (MITA) and co-chair of MTT. "Legislators have told us that they want to hear from their constituents on the issue of Michigan's failing transportation system, we're happy to oblige."

The Michigan Legislature is currently exploring a package of bills that would increase road funding over the next five years in Michigan. The plan is expected to yield an additional \$1.8 billion in new transportation revenue per year, increasing the amount local road commissions would receive to maintain, repair and replace existing roads as well as create 46,000 jobs for the state. If Michigan legislators fail to address Michigan's transportation funding needs, Michigan's road and bridge funding will plummet dramatically in 2011, causing the state to return almost \$600 million a year to Washington because of the state's inability to match federal aid.

"Our transportation system is in shambles," Nystrom said. "Our roads, bridges, and busses have been drastically underfunded for years and it is time our lawmakers take notice. Our crumbling roadways are no longer safe for Michigan motorists and we need our legislators to hear this from the public."

MTT is a broad-based, bi-partisan partnership of business, labor, local government, associations and citizens linked with the common goal of improving Michigan's transportation infrastructure.