

GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM

March 10, 2006

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

In Michigan, just as our roads physically unite our state, we're also pretty united in our opinion of those roads – whether you're from Manistee or Marquette or Monroe, people all across Michigan agree that when it comes to our transportation infrastructure, there's certainly room for improvement.

That's why my administration has made improving the safety and quality of our roads a priority; and that's why I recently announced a new initiative to dramatically increase the number of local road improvements you're going to see all across the state this construction season.

As a driver out there on Michigan's roads, you might not know whether you're heading down a state road, a county road or a city road. But you do know that you want those roads to get you to your destination safely...and with as few potholes as possible.

That's what the Local Jobs Today plan will do. For the first time ever, it will use state dollars to help cities, counties and local transit agencies all across Michigan improve local roads.

Why is the state chipping in? Because local governments are feeling the financial pinch of tough economic times – and by using state funds, we can bring \$320 million additional federal transportation dollars to Michigan. Those federal dollars wouldn't be available without the work of Michigan's Congressional delegation, and I want thank them for their efforts.

Now, by putting these new transportation dollars to work, we're also putting our citizens to work.

In 2006 and 2007, the Local Jobs Today program will create more than seven thousand jobs. These are important construction jobs that will make our roads and bridges safer, and our communities stronger.

Of course, my administration is all about building a stronger state and a stronger economy at the same time.

Our Jobs Today Initiative, which we started last year, is already at work accelerating some \$3 billion in critical infrastructure projects across Michigan.

From renovating nursing homes to improving our cityscapes and downtowns, we're improving the curb appeal of our state and our economy, too.

Our effort to improve our roads is part of my overall plan to grow Michigan's economy...and it's a part that you'll see in action this spring.

...but, only with the approval of the Legislature. I look forward to working with Michigan's lawmakers to put these critical transportation dollars into the hands of local governments as soon as possible, so we can all get work improving Michigan's roads this year.

Thank you for listening.