



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: CONTACT:

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Message in a Bottle: No Excuses!

Pulverized road emphasizes critical need for improved road funding

LANSING, Mich. – Legislators received a stern warning when bottles filled with the remains of Lake Montcalm Road, Montcalm County were delivered to their state offices today. The bottles contained millings collected when the road was pulverized and turned back to gravel due to lack of funding – a cost-saving move now occurring in 24 Michigan counties.

“Delivering this ‘message in a bottle’ draws critical attention to the immediate need for our roads to be fixed,” said Mike Nystrom, co-chair of the Michigan Transportation Team (MTT). “No excuses, Fix MI Roads. That’s our message and it continues to be the message of Michigan’s employers, taxpayers and drivers,” Nystrom said.

Due to funding shortfalls, counties throughout Michigan have been forced to return once-smoothly paved roads back to gravel. “With proper funding, Michigan roads can be maintained, and further pulverizations can be avoided,” said Nystrom.

Wednesday morning Michigan state legislators received bottles filled with gravel from the pulverized Montcalm County road with this warning message attached:

“24 counties in Michigan have been forced to pulverize and return roads to gravel due to lack of funding. Don’t let Michigan crumble on your watch!”

-MORE-

A warning label added:

“WARNING! This bottle contains millings collected from the pulverization of Lake Montcalm Road, Montcalm County when it was turned back to gravel due to lack of funding. Don’t let this happen in your County!”

“There will never be a ‘right’ time to invest in our infrastructure; we can’t wait another day, and we can’t wait for another county to turn its roads back to gravel because there isn’t enough funding to maintain them,” Nystrom said. “This new investment in Michigan’s transportation infrastructure will create 46,000 jobs – which Michigan desperately needs. There are no more excuses, the legislature must act now!”

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.

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. The DriveMI campaign is committed to promoting the development and maintenance of a safe, convenient and efficient transportation network that serves the public, private and economic development needs of Michigan. Please visit www.drivemi.org for more information on transportation funding.

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***Please see the attached photo of the “message in a bottle” delivered today**