Rick Snyder wants Michigan roads to be priority in legislature's 'lame duck' session



Michigan Governor Rick Snyder waves to the crowd before giving his victory speech during the Michigan GOP 2014 election party at the GM Renaissance Center in Detroit Tuesday, November 4, 2014. (Mike Mulholland | MLive.com)
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DETROIT, MI -- Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder expressed Wednesday optimism that he can get an ambitious road funding bill through the State Legislature and on his desk for approval before his second term begins on Jan. 1.

Snyder, who won re-election Tuesday, told WJR 760 AM radio host Frank Beckmann it's critical to make fixes to the state's roads ASAP because they are only getting worse and costing his constituents thousands of dollars in repairs.

During the interview, Snyder shared that he was astounded to see how many Michiganians raised their hands at his recent town hall meetings when he asked how many motorists experienced blown tires or bent rims due to poor roads.

"The hands going up were amazing," Snyder said. "People know (how bad Michigan's roads are) now, and that's whats going to get (a road funding bill) done."

Snyder added that he encourages Michiganians to "speak up now" so their representatives can **help him get road fixes package in place during this current "lame duck" session in the legislature between now and Jan. 1 -- the start of his second term.**

Wouldn't it be better to take those hundreds of dollars and put them in a smooth road than doing that for vehicle repairs?" - Gov. Rick Snyder

"Wouldn't it be better to take those hundreds of dollars and put them in a smooth road than doing that for vehicle repairs?," Snyder said.

The website JustFixTheRoads.com claims the state loses over $3 million each day or over $1 billion annually in transportation assets.

It also mentions that every dollar invested in maintaining Michigan roads and bridges saves at least six dollars in reconstruction costs.

A January 2014 report from TRIP, **a national transportation research group,**says Michigan residents pay $357 annually in unnecessary repairs to their vehicles due to poor roads.

After Tuesday's general election, Michigan Republicans maintained control of the state House and will continue their supermajority in the Senate.

Republicans held a 26 to 12 lead in the Senate before the election and 59 to 50 advantage in the House, where they captured the majority four years ago.