

# 2017-18 Legislative Priorities: *Transportation and Infrastructure*

**GOAL: Strengthen the Basic Foundation for Economic Development by Maintaining and Improving Michigan's Public Infrastructure**

## ***Chamber Members Advocate:***

- Supporting full implementation of the recently approved \$1.2 billion five-year plan to fix Michigan's roads and bridges financed through user fees and the re-prioritization of current spending. Any reduction in the commitment to use general funds for roads and bridges must be offset dollar-for-dollar with user fee increases.
- Supporting the development and funding of a long-term strategy to modernize and maintain Michigan's critical economic development infrastructure.
- Supporting modernization of the Soo Locks.
- Moving forward with construction of the new international trade crossing between Detroit and Windsor, Canada.



## **WHY?**

Michigan's economic competitiveness and the health and well-being of citizens depends on a safe, reliable and affordable infrastructure. For too long, we have utilized a band-aid approach to addressing critical infrastructure needs and that strategy has exacerbated problems. It is vital that policymakers identify both long-term needs and appropriate funding mechanisms. Roads and bridges are often the most identifiable facet of infrastructure but serious consideration must also be given to water and wastewater treatment systems, storm sewers, and ports and airports. If Michigan is to continue to prosper, we must not neglect the hard task of planning for the future and taking the steps necessary to implement long-term strategies for success.