

## New report highlights alarming stats for Oregon traffic fatalities on rural roads

by Mary Loos | Wednesday, May 22, 2019



WASHINGTON - A new report just released by the non-profit traffic research group, [Trip](#), ranks Oregon as 10th in the nation for traffic fatalities on rural roads.

The group compiled data from 2017 for the study. Oregon's traffic fatality rank on rural roads is more than 3.5 times higher than the fatality rate on all other roads in the state. The report goes on to say, the higher traffic fatality rate found on rural, non-interstate routes is a result of multiple factors, including a lack of desirable roadway safety features, longer emergency vehicle response times, and the higher speeds traveled on rural roads compared to urban roads.

Other data included in the study found that finds that 28 percent of Oregon's rural roads are rated in poor or mediocre condition, and 5% of Oregon's rural bridges are rated as poor or structurally deficient.

The good news locally is that Multnomah County re-evaluates its Roads Capital Improvement Project every few years. In 2018, the county received public input on some of the biggest areas of concern. As related to this study, there are a few in rural east County. You can read the results of that public outreach in a [report linked from this page](#).

The main goal of the newly released national study is to emphasize the need for financial support from the federal government to make improvements to the rural infrastructure across the country, especially as the nation continues to grow in those areas.

[Read the full study here.](#)