Report says Maine roads are costing drivers time and money

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PORTLAND (WGME) -- A new report finds that Maine roads are costing drivers a lot of time and money.

The report, released by TRIP, a Washington, D.C. based organization says Mainers are paying at least a billion dollars a year because of poor roads, congestion and auto repairs.

The study says the average driver in the Portland area pays an extra thousand dollars a year because of higher vehicle operating costs.

The study says more money is needed to improve roads and experts say approving Question 6 would do that.

"The State of Maine needs a robust transportation system to connect its' citizens to the products of the world. We need a connection to the world transportation infrastructure. That doesn't happen without investment in our highways and our roads," says Paul Bradbury, director, Portland International Jetport.

The TRIP report says traffic congestion in the Portland area is also getting worse, costing each driver $332 annually in lost time and wasted fuel.

Ted Talbot, spokesman for the Maine Department of Transportation says "while limited funding continues to be a challenge, Maine DOT is proud of the work we do and we will continue to make positive impacts throughout the state."