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Alabama's 50 most needed road improvements would cost \$4.6 billion, report states



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It would cost \$4.6 billion to address Alabama's 50 greatest road improvement needs, a national transportation research group stated in a report today.

Of the 50 problems across the state, seven of the top 20 are in Birmingham. Rocky Moretti, the Director of Policy and Research for [TRIP](#), said today that the organization chose to construct a report on Alabama because the state's overall traffic fatality rate is

"significantly higher than the national average."

Moretti also said that Alabama's rural roads have two-and-a-half times the fatality rate of all other state roads.

The improvements in the report are aimed to increase economic growth and safety in the state.

According to the report, 13 percent of Alabama's bridges are functionally obsolete- meaning the bridges are not up to national design standards because of alignment, narrow lanes, or inadequate clearances. Additionally, 16 percent of the state's urban roads are in poor condition.

Speakers at today's press conference included Jefferson County Commissioner Joe Knight, Chairman of the Coalition for Regional Transportation Craig Fleming, and Executive Director Blount County Economic Development Council Don Mitchell.

Moretti said that travel in Alabama has increased 3 percent in the last few years, and increased 53 percent from 1990-2012.

To make all of the improvements mentioned in the report would cost the state \$4.6 billion.

"It's meant to be a blueprint over the years," Moretti said about the cost of the report's suggestions.

"We're looking get the issues out there... to get appropriate safety features on the roadway."

In closing, Fleming said, "We need to make our state a true economic competitor... [the roadway improvements] are the only responsible thing to do."

To view the full report, [click here](#).