

By [Karaline Ann](#) | Thursday, March 2, 2017

Report: 76 percent of GJ roads are in bad condition



GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. (KKCO) -- A new report shows Grand Junction roads and bridges are deteriorating.

The average Grand Junction drivers will spend \$1,264 a year on their car, because of poor condition of area roads, according to a recent study released by TRIP, a transportation research group.

Some residents said they are not surprised to hear the results of the study.

"In the last year I've hit two pot holes and had to replace two sets of rims on my vehicle," said Grand Junction resident, Bill Rockwood.

The transportation review bases results off of three categories: vehicle operation costs, congestion and safety.

"Thirty-two percent of major roads are in poor condition, and an additional 44% are in mediocre condition," said Carolyn Kelly, the author of the study. "Drivers are getting a rough ride."

This means 76% of our roads are in bad condition.

"It's going to cost twice as much because they have to rip up the existing surface, they can't just lay asphalt over what they have," said Rockwood.

The decline in our roads is a long standing issue.

"The original one was at 73% or 73 number," said Mayor Phyllis Norris. "We dropped, clear down to 69 and we're very concerned about that because it's a big drop."

The city noticed the steady decline at the last road test about five years ago, but they have some plans in mind.

"We're going out to the voters and asking them if they want us to take the TABOR funding that's already there, and use it on our roads to bring it up to where it needs to be," said Mayor Norris.

Tapping into the TABOR funding wouldn't cost taxpayers any money, as funds are already available.

TABOR funds were initially intended for Riverside Parkway, but would be used towards all roads and bridges.

The study shows a grim outlook.

Without some serious work, the problem will only get worse.

"Grand Junction drivers are driving on roads that are deteriorated, increasingly congested and that might lack some safety features," said Kelly.

The study found that more than 2,000 people were killed in crashes on Colorado roads from 2011-2015.

Kelly said adding more rumble strips or medians are a good start to improving safety.