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Road repairs overdue; Potholes costing money and lives



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The report released by a national transportation research group called TRIP says 47 percent of Hawaii's major roadways are in poor condition. It's even worse for drivers in Honolulu.

"In Honolulu 62 percent of the roads are in poor condition, the third highest in cities with populations of 500,000 or more," said TRIP Executive Director Will Wilkins.

TRIP says it all adds up to delays in traffic congestion and faster deterioration of vehicles and estimates that the cost to each driver at more than \$1,500 a year. The report says the design of the highways are obsolete, which puts motorists in danger.

"Numerous lives can be saved by improving the design of roadways, including the addition of median barriers, the use of rumble strips, improved intersection design and improved signage," Wilkins said.

Nearly half of bridges also don't meet current safety standards. TRIP is partially funded by the construction industry. And it's lobbying for the government in the federal, state, and county levels to put more money in construction projects. The construction industry says it continues to lose jobs even though many areas in the mainland have rebounded. The state says it's doing all it can to push construction projects forward.

"Either they're in the design phase or the construction phase right now to address all these issues. We're well aware of our situation and we'll continue to work to get our roads in the best shape that we can possibly get them to," said Dan Meisenzahl, of the State Transportation Department.

The state says it is a top priority to make sure that every federal dollar is spent.