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Report: Unmet Transportation Needs Threaten Maine's Economic Growth

That's one of the conclusions in a new report by the national non-profit research group, "TRIP," which lists what it says are Maine's top 50 transportation challenges.

Increasing roadway and bridge deterioration, traffic safety concerns and growing congestion threaten to stifle economic growth in Maine and have a negative impact on the quality of life of the state's residents.

Those are among the conclusions in a new report by the national non-profit research group, "[TRIP](#)," which lists what it says are Maine's top 50 transportation challenges and recommendations for improvements. The report's release comes in advance of next Tuesday's statewide vote on a \$100 million transportation bond.

"Those 50 projects, to a large degree, would be reflected in this bond issue, says Maine State Chamber of Commerce President Dana Connors. "And even with that, and with the stewardship that the department applies in trying to maintain and construct, they still will face a \$110 million shortfall to keep up with the program that's necessary."

The bond money would match an estimated \$154 million in federal and other funds.

This story was reported by Patty Wight and written by Ed Morin.