

LOCAL

# Transportation report says many of Maine's roads are in 'poor condition'

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**PORTLAND, Maine** (NEWS CENTER) --

A transportation research group released a study Thursday that said some of Maine's roads and bridges are in poor condition.

The group "TRIP," a Washington, D.C. based national transportation organization, does about 20 of these reports in different states every year. They released the report at the Portland Jetport with airport director Paul Bradbury.

The report found that throughout Maine, 26 percent of the major urban locally and state-maintained roads are in poor condition.

"The system is taking a pounding, and the region is falling behind," said Rocky Moretti, of TRIP. "When you don't make the improvements, it's the public that pays for it."

Moretti and Bradbury said the bond issue on the November ballot for transportation costs could solve that.

The bond issue would give \$100 million to rehab roads and build more infrastructure. The federal government would match that with about \$137 million. The Maine Better Transportation Association says the last time a bond issue like this failed was in 1969.

It would also provide \$20 million for facilities, equipment and property acquisition related to ports, harbors, marine transportation, aviation, freight and passenger railroads, transit and bicycle and pedestrian trails that preserve public safety or otherwise have demonstrated high transportation economic value.

A total of 34 percent of Maine's bridges show significant deterioration or do not meet modern design standards. Fifteen percent of Maine's bridges are structurally deficient, with significant deterioration to the bridge deck, supports or other major components. An additional 19 percent of the state's bridges are functionally obsolete, which means they no longer meet modern design standards, often because of narrow lanes, inadequate clearances or poor alignment. In the Portland urban area, 11 percent of bridges are structurally deficient and 25 percent are functionally obsolete.

The TRIP report finds that 56 percent of major roads in the Portland urban area are in poor or mediocre condition, costing the average motorist an additional \$524 each year in extra vehicle operating costs, including accelerated vehicle depreciation, additional repair costs, and increased fuel consumption and tire wear.

You can read the full report on Maine's roads [here](#).

The full bond issue is [here](#).