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National organization gives poor marks to condition of Oklahoma City's roads and streets



by [William Crum](#)

Wear and tear from driving on poorly maintained streets costs drivers more in Oklahoma City than in any other large U.S. city.

That's the conclusion of TRIP, a national transportation research group, which pegs the additional cost to Oklahoma City car owners at \$1,025 annually.

TRIP's latest study of major roads found Oklahoma City's are eighth-worst in the country.

Surveys of residents back up TRIP's findings, with many expressing dissatisfaction with the condition of city streets.

[Downtown OKC: Read more about what's going on downtown.](#)

City leaders have said they will make road maintenance a higher priority.

They say the pavement condition index, or PCI, a measure of the level of disrepair of city streets, has been showing improvement.

The Public Works department's has allocated \$213.7 million to streets in its five-year capital improvement plan.

That's about two-thirds of the \$318.1 million in total spending currently in the pipeline.

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The total will increase after voters approve the 2017

general-obligation bond program, which will include additional authority to borrow money for street repairs and other needs, such as drainage.

The 2017 general-obligation bond election is expected to take place in September.

The city is collecting ideas from residents about which streets need resurfacing, which sidewalks need replacing, and other needs.

The let city leaders know what you think the top priorities should be over the next five to seven years, fill out the online survey at okc.gov/GO.

There's also a survey oriented to neighborhood needs, and resources for neighborhood leaders.

TRIP found in its study that 71 percent of the major roads in the San Francisco-Oakland area in California are in poor condition, topping the list.

Los Angeles, San Jose, Detroit and Milwaukee made the top five.

TRIP found 53 percent of major roads in Oklahoma City were in poor condition, ranking eighth-worst, just behind Omaha, Neb., and just ahead of Grand Rapids, Mich.

Tulsa ranked 10th on the list of worst streets.

TRIP's report is [online](#).

It examines urban pavement conditions, transportation funding, travel trends and economic development, and is titled "[Bumpy Roads Ahead: America's Roughest Rides and Strategies to make our Roads Smoother.](#)"

Key findings include:

- Nearly one-third of the nation's major urban roads are rated in substandard or poor condition.
- With heavier traffic and more large trucks, expect an increase in wear and tear on urban roads.
- The latest federal highway bill "falls far short" of funding needed to meet road and transit needs.
- Federal spending to improve the condition of roads and bridges could boost U.S. economic growth.
- Using high quality paving materials and keeping up with repairs reduces costs over the long run.