

## Study: Montana road conditions costing the economy

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A study by a Washington, DC-based non-profit finds Montana road conditions cost drivers almost \$800 million every year.

That figure includes increased maintenance costs from driving on bumpy, rutted roads to lost income and rising insurance costs from crashes -- even wasted fuel and time from traffic congestion.

The study also found more than a third of Montana's major local and state

maintained urban roads rated in poor condition and 18% of bridges showed significant deterioration or did not meet current design standards.

The study was backed by the [Montana Infrastructure Coalition](#), a group of cities, counties, businesses and organization who want investment in infrastructure.

The group support bills to increase the gas tax and create a luxury items tax to pay for infrastructure projects.

“The intent there is to fully leverage the federal highway dollars that are available to the state of Montana. And to make sure we push money down to the city county governments which have been under funded for 30 years,” said Montana Infrastructure Coalition Executive Director Darryl James.

“We’ve been talking about our failing infrastructure and lack of funding for a long time now and have very little to show for all that hand-wringing,” James added, “It’s time for a little less talk and a lot more action.”

“[TRIP](#)” is a national transportation research group.

The non-profit is sponsored by insurance companies, businesses involved in highway engineering and construction, labor unions, equipment manufacturers and organization concerned with efficient and safe road transportation.

[Click here](#) to read the full report prepared by TRIP.