While the state is currently spending roughly $1.3 billion per year to maintain its roads, the TRIP report recommends the state spend around $1.9 billion to keep it running smoothly.

The current level of funding for North Carolina's transportation system just isn't enough, according to a national research firm, which is urging state lawmakers to act soon.

According to a report by the nonprofit research group TRIP, based out of Washington D.C., North Carolina's roads are in desperate need of repair to keep up with the state's population growth. North Carolina's population has grown 26 percent since the year 2000, and it's projected to increase another 20 percent by 2035.