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City, state both in urgent need for road and bridge repairs, study says

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CHARLOTTE, N.C. -- A new report says 49 percent of Charlotte-area roads are in poor or mediocre, at best conditions.

The report, unveiled Thursday afternoon at the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce paints a bleak picture of road and bridge conditions in Charlotte and across the state.

The report was compiled by the Trip Research Group that found the State Department of Transportation has only 17 percent of the funding needed to complete all the projects that are needed now.

Carolyn Kelly from Trip said, "That means that four of every five needed projects in North Carolina are left stranded on the drawing board."

Looking at road conditions in Charlotte, the report listed 30 percent as being in good condition, 22 percent fair and 20 percent as poor.

By comparison in Raleigh, only 13 percent of roads there were rated poor.

The study also looked at bridges in Charlotte and found that of 639 bridges, 25 were structurally deficient.

Said Kelly, "Which means there is significant deterioration to the major components of the bridge."

The report does not single out specific roads and bridges, but NBC Charlotte has reported in the past on the condition of the Highway 74 bridge at Mallard Creek.

That bridge is rated as structurally obsolete, meaning it is safe but out of date.

The Trip Group would not take a position on toll roads as a method to fund construction in the future, and would not comment on the I-77 toll project at Lake Norman, but the Chamber President Bob Morgan did.

"We do support tolls to add additional highway capacity faster than otherwise would happen," Morgan said.