

FWIW: New study confirms N.J. roads in bad shape



A series of potholes under the train trestle on Morris Street in Morristown was a casualty of New Jersey's rough winter last year of freezing cold, rain and snow followed by the occasional warm day. (Photo: file photo)

A national transportation research group came to Edison Thursday to talk about how badly New Jersey's roads have deteriorated. Anybody who has driven anywhere in the Garden State might well be tempted to say, "Tell us something we don't know."

How about this? The poor shape of New Jersey's roads is costing motorists \$2,000 a year when you factor in repairs, accelerated depreciation of cars, additional tire wear, injuries sustained in auto crashes and lost production time while you stew in traffic.

The group, called TRIP, found that in 2013, 35 percent of the state's major roads were in poor condition, 41 percent were "mediocre" and 24 percent were "good."

The report said bad roads and bridges resulted in a total of \$11.8 billion in additional costs for drivers to operate their vehicles.