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## Rough roads cost Syracuse-area drivers \$477 a year in extra vehicle wear, group says



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SYRACUSE, N.Y. - Rough roads cost Syracuse-area drivers an estimated \$477 a year each for extra wear and tear on their vehicles, according to a report issued today by TRIP, a national transportation research group that advocates increased state and federal spending on highway repairs.

Using data from the Federal Highway Administration and other sources, TRIP today released its assessment of major roads in Syracuse and other urban areas of New York state.

Some 45 percent of major locally and state-maintained roads and highways in Syracuse have pavements in poor or mediocre condition, the group says. The rough conditions add an average of \$477 a year to each motorist's cost of vehicle repairs, new tires, increased fuel consumption and other factors, the group estimates. Last year, TRIP estimated the same Syracuse-area cost at \$393 per motorist.

Syracuse-area roads are in better condition than those of Albany and New York City, but worse than Buffalo and Rochester, TRIP reports.

Rocky Moretti, TRIP's director of research and policy, was scheduled to present the report at a news conference today at Lou's Car Care Center in Syracuse. His report argues that preventive maintenance on roads and highways is cheaper than full replacement and stimulates the economy by creating jobs, spurring economic development and saving money for motorists. Better road and bridge conditions also would cut down on serious accidents, the report says.

Based in Washington, D.C., TRIP is sponsored by insurance companies, equipment manufacturers, distributors and suppliers, businesses involved in highway and transit engineering and construction and labor unions, among others.

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