

## Study finds Kansas drivers paying for deteriorating roads

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Written by Chris Frank



WICHITA, Kan. (KAKE) - Wichita motorist Patti Arnold says she knows driving on rough roads damages vehicles.

Arnold said, "And I do feel like we should keep up our infrastructure here in Wichita and surrounding areas."

A new study out Thursday says Kansas is falling behind in maintaining highways and local streets.

The study comes from TRIP, a national transportation research group based in Washington, D.C. TRIP is a non-profit group getting funds from insurance and construction companies as well as from equipment makers.

TRIP's Associate Director and author of the study, Carolyn Bonifas Kelly was in Wichita to talk to reporters about her findings.

"According to our report, driving on Kansas roads that are congested," Kelly said. "Deteriorated and lack some safety features costs state drivers \$2.7 billion each year. Here in Wichita that breaks down to almost \$16-hundred per driver each year."

The report's author said these bad road issues will continue as long as there is insufficient funding at the local, state and federal levels.

Kelly says the condition of the state's transportation system impacts quality of life and economic growth in the state.

The study doesn't blame the Kansas Department of Transportation or local road workers but rather the diversion of state highway money to the state's general fund. The TRIP study points to \$2.4 billion that's been diverted from KDOT to other state agencies since 2011.

You can read that report by going to <http://tripnet.org>