Ohio's Roads Cost Drivers $12 Billion Annually

By TANA WEINGARTNER · Thursday, June 21, 2018

A national transportation research group says Ohio's roadways are deteriorated and congested, costing drivers $12 billion each year. Yup, that's "billion" with a "b."

TRIP says that breaks down to about $2,022 per driver per year in the Cincinnati area.

The agency's transportation study, released Thursday, is specific to Ohio and calls for increasing funding for improving the state's roads and easing congestion.

The report states:

25 percent of major locally and state-maintained roads in the Cincinnati urban area are in poor condition and 25 percent are in mediocre condition, costing the average motorist an additional $574 each year in extra vehicle operating costs.

Hamilton County Engineer Ted Hubbard says the report is valuable because it sheds light on the issue.

"It also helps foster discussion about where we go from here," Hubbard says. "It encourages discussion from government and the people. We need to talk about what we're willing to fund and what we're willing to live without so that we can prioritize because there is no Utopia."

Here's how drivers across Ohio's metropolitan areas fare per year:

- Cincinnati: $2,022
- Cleveland-Akron: $2,180
- Columbus: $1,906
- Dayton: $1,740
- Toledo: $1,976

In this chart from TRIP, "VOC" stands for "vehicle operating cost."

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