

Damaged Ohio roadways costing drivers \$12 billion annually



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Pothole complaints soared this past winter as roadways around central Ohio took a beating thanks to some extreme weather.

But today, a [new report](#), released by [TRIP](#), a national transportation research group, revealed our roadways could be worse off than we thought.

The new study found that deteriorated and damaged roads and bridges are costing Ohio drivers \$12 billion statewide each year. In the Columbus urban area, over \$1,900 per driver.

Why? Drivers are paying more in operating costs driving on roads in need of repair, losing time and fuel and the costs of crashes related to damaged roadway features.

Local leaders aren't surprised but say they have a plan.

"I think the biggest thing for us is continuing to work with those that are trying to push forward economic development in the city and make sure that we're creating opportunities for jobs to be created for our citizens, make sure there's opportunities for people then to get to those jobs or get to those health centers, education centers, whatever it is that's being developed," said Jennifer Gallagher, director of the Department of Public Service for the City of Columbus.

Another idea, suggested by Cornell Robertson, Franklin County engineer, would be to implement what's known as a Transportation Improvement District across the county.

The idea is to bring communities together by compiling money ahead of time, in preparation for when projects arise.

For more information on the report itself, [click here](#).

You can also check out some of the projects around central Ohio by [clicking here](#).