

Bad roads may be costing Miami Valley drivers in the long run

by Rhonda Moore | Thursday, June 21st 2018



DAYTON, Ohio (WKEF/WRGT) - Anyone who hits the road in the Miami Valley knows the ones in our area aren't in the best shape, but according to a recent report, that's costing you more than you may think.

The report said the average driver in the Miami Valley is paying an additional \$1,740 a year. That's due to driving on rough roads and other factors, including being delayed by traffic congestion.

"I don't think they're in good shape, they're all needing some kind of repair, some way or other," Louise Drew said.

She's on the road almost every day, and said there's one main problem she sees.

"Lot of pot holes, really a lot of pot holes and it's bad on our cars alignments on our cars and everything," Drew said. "It's really tearing our cars up."

"We don't want more pot holes," Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission Executive Director Brian Martin said. "We don't want run down roads. We want them to stay well maintained. It takes money to do that."

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission asked a non profit organization called Trip to look at transportation issues in the Dayton area.

"28 percent of major roads in the Dayton area have pavements in poor condition, and 24 percent have pavements in mediocre conditions," Trip Policy and Research Director Rocky Moretti said.

"Our pavements are not in the kind of shape we'd like them to be in," Montgomery County Engineer Paul Gruner said.

That goes for some bridges too. The Montgomery County engineer said many of the 514 bridges in the county need repair.

"Eight percent of our bridges are either structurally deficient or functionally obsolete," he said.

Bad roads and bridges can contribute to accidents.

"On average, 61 people annually in the Dayton area have been killed in traffic crashes over the last three years," Moretti said.

The report found more money is needed from national, state and local governments to keep the roads safe.

"We do have problems maintaining our roads and bridges, primarily because of lack of funding," Gruner said. "The need is there and we really could use additional funding."

"Certainly there's a cost to improve the transportation system, but there's a far higher cost when you don't make those improvements," Moretti said.

Those traffic experts said drivers need to contact their representatives about funding road and bridge projects.

Next year, the Third Street "Peace" bridge is scheduled to be replaced, while parts of U.S. 35. I-70 and I-75 airport access remain unfunded.