

## Toledo drivers lose around \$2,000 a year because of roads

By Allie Hausfeld, Reporter



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TOLEDO, OH (WTOL) - A new study from TRIP, a national transportation research group, found that Toledoans are spending \$1,976 per driver annually because of roads.

This is due to deteriorated roads, traffic crashes and congestion related delays leading to higher fuel costs.

TMACOG leaders gathered on Thursday to talk about the numbers.

Toledo's cost per year is higher than Dayton (\$1,740) and Columbus (\$1,906), but lower than Cincinnati (\$2,022) and Cleveland (\$2,180).

This report also found Toledo has more roads in good condition than any other major Ohio city, with 46%. It said Toledo drivers lose 41 hours a year in traffic, adding up to \$983 in lost fuel.

Area leaders said they are doing their best, but really they need the help from the state and federal governments.

Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz said they are doing what they can with the money they have, but they are getting less and less money every year from Columbus.

He cites the city's ability to start the paving on the Anthony Wayne Trail a year and a half ahead of schedule as a win.

"We're on our own, and we will figure out a way to get it done, no one is feeling sorry for us. We'll do our part, and we are doing our part, but it would be nice to get a little help from Washington and Columbus every once and a while. I think that is what today is all about," said Kapszukiewicz.

Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken joined Kapszukiewicz calling on state lawmakers to increase funding as construction costs are rapidly increasing.

The county commissioners just passed an additional 5 dollars a year for license plates to help area roads and bridges, but he says they can't do this alone.

"This report tells the citizens of Toledo and Lucas County something that they already know, our roads are in bad shape and need help. I don't think anybody that takes a trip today or yesterday doesn't have some comment about the shape of the roads," said Gerken.

Gerken and Kapszukiewicz said they will continue doing their best with the money they have, but hope this sends a signal to the state capital.