

## New study reports Bay Area roads are worst in nation

Roads in the Bay Area were the worst in the nation and accounted for high costs to drivers in 2016, according to a report released by a national nonprofit on Oct. 17.

The staff at The Road Information program (TRIP), a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit focused on transportation issues, used highway data to rank more than 100 urban areas that the group determined to have the worst roads.

The region defined as the San Francisco-Oakland urban area, meaning those two cities and others in the surrounding area, came out on top of that list. The report says 71 percent of major roads in the area are in poor repair, according to pavement data from the Federal Highway Administration.

Because of that, drivers in the area lost on average more than \$1,000 annually when their vehicles depreciated, needed maintenance and used more fuel.

San Jose ranked second in the nation in the TRIP report, with 64 percent of roads in bad shape. The average San Jose driver lost \$983 annually, according to the report.

Bay Area cities also topped a similar list of mid-sized urban areas. The area of Antioch was first, with 57 percent of roads in poor condition, according to TRIP. A close second was Concord, at 56 percent.

Metropolitan Transportation Commission spokesman John Goodwin said the MTC is responsible for some of the roads surveyed in the report. The others are managed by Caltrans.

Goodwin said that in general, California roads need work. "All around the Bay Area, really all around California, we have streets, roads and highways that are suffering from years of neglect," he said.

A year-old gas tax has been helping to pump more money into road maintenance, but there's still a ways to go, Goodwin said. The tax itself is in danger of repeal with the presence of Proposition 6 on the state's Nov. 6 ballot.

TRIP used data from 2016 because it was the most recent data available, according to the report.

The nonprofit is sponsored by insurance agencies, equipment makers and labor unions, among others, according to its website. The full report can be found [here](#).

— Bay City News Service