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National Report Shows Wisconsin Drivers Paying for Rough Roads

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Rhinelanders - Potholes often bring people to James Maze's shop, Certified Auto Repair in Rhinelanders. Maze says that he is seeing more suspension repairs from the poor road conditions in Rhinelanders at this time.



Suspension repairs can get expensive

"The average suspension damage can range from three to four hundred dollars. In extreme cases it can double." Maze said

According to TRIP, a national resource transportation group, North Central Wisconsin drivers lose more than \$1,500 per year due to neglected roadways. These costs include repairs, crashes and congestion-related delays

Rhinelanders Director of Public Works Tim Kingman says studies identify roads that need attention.

Kingman also adds that priority for roads getting repaired isn't necessarily about the roads themselves but the utilities under them. "Roads will wear out in 15 to 20 years. The utilities will last about 50 years." Kingman said.

Roads with outdated utilities are less likely to get repaired because they are considered less valuable than the ones with updated utilities.

"We selected locations where the utilities are a reasonable shape and we don't lose the value of doing the road," Kingman said.

With limited funds, the city has to put money toward road repairs where it can get the best use.

"The city has a 10 year schedule for the leading candidates for replacements in utility work." Kingman said

For information on what current road projects that are happening in Rhinelanders you can check out the [Rhinelanders city website](#).

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