

Study says roads are costing Illinoisans money while State lawmakers debate ways to pay for infrastructure

The Statehouse is trying to come up with a plan to address crumbling roads and infrastructure. With only 2 weeks left in the spring session, it's crunch time.

Democrats and Republicans are working together to fix a problem everyone can relate to. It's been a decade since they passed a major capital spending bill. [Carolyn Kelly's report for 'TRIP'](#), a non-profit based in Washington, D.C., says 57% of roads in Peoria and Bloomington are in poor or mediocre condition. And its costing drivers statewide. "In the Peoria area, because they're driving on roads that are deteriorated, congested, and not as safe as could be. The average driver loses about \$1500 each year," explained Kelly.

State leaders met again Thursday, to chew on that data Kelly presented.

Kelly added, "Across the state of Illinois those costs add up to 18.3 billion dollars a year that the state's drivers are losing." State Senator Martin Sandoval is sponsoring an effort to raise an estimated \$2.4 billion every year to repair the decaying roadways. Sandoval said, "I think it's a hypocrisy on behalf of our state to consider ourselves to be the crossroads and hub of america when we don't take a real public and personal interest in up-keeping our infrastructure."



The Democrat's initial proposal was to raise the state gas tax from 19 to 44 cents a gallon. And to increase the electric vehicle registration from 17.50 to \$1000 a year. But in recent sessions, those numbers continue to decline as democrats and republicans work to find a solution. Local Republican Representative Dan Brady doesn't think it will be easy.

"The last thing the state needs to be doing is raising taxes to

the point of \$1000 on licensing aspects of owning electric vehicles," explained Brady.

Brady says Illinois generated more tax revenue than expected in April, and should use that before increasing taxes. It's not about just the money. Brady says increasing taxes on something environmentally friendly sends the wrong message. "It sends the wrong message not only environmentally, it sends the wrong message to companies trying to invest in Illinois."