

Bad roads cost Springfield drivers \$1,300 a year

by Rachel Droze | Wednesday, May 15th 2019



SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (WICS/WRSP) — A lot of Illinois roads are in bad shape and it turns out, the deteriorating conditions are costing drivers more than \$1,000 a year.

A [report](#) by TRIP, a national transportation research group, found bad and congested roads cost drivers \$1,300 a year in Springfield.

Roads and bridges that are deteriorated cost Springfield drivers an average of \$491 a year, congested roads cost Springfield drivers an average of \$306 a year and roads that lack some desirable safety features cost Springfield drivers an average of \$497 a year.

“I’m surprised it’s not a little bit more,” Jeffrey Strode said.

Strode is the owner and operator of C&J Detail Plus.

He said whenever he’s out driving, he cringes whenever he hits a bump.

“I’m afraid I’m going to break something,” Strode said. “I’m afraid that I’m going to hurt something.”

Damage to cars from roads can add up quick.

“I’ve put over \$1,500 into my car,” Springfield driver Elbert Williams said.

That’s why Williams is considering ditching his car altogether.

“I’m about ready to park it and just ride my bike because it’s too much money,” Williams said. “More money that I make. I’m spending more money on my car because they don’t want to do nothing about the roads.”

Vernon King Sr. said he sees this damage firsthand.

He owns King’s Mobile Tire Service and gets a lot of business from people with broken rims.

“It’s costly for sure,” King said. “It wears and tears on everybody.”

So what can be done?

Well for one, local and state governments can budget to have these roads fixed.

“Some roads in Springfield just need to be redone,” Strode said.

That of course would come at a cost to taxpayers though.

But Strode said that needs to happen because the bumps in the road can be dangerous, as well as costly.

“If you hit a pothole hard enough and you break something, you can pull your car right off the road,” Strode said. “You can pull it into somebody else or hit a street pole. It can get very dangerous.”

In addition to damage, the study also found the drivers in Springfield spend an average of 13 hours stuck in traffic throughout the year.

[Click here](#) to read the full report.