

Study shows pot holes putting holes in wallet

By: [Kalie Marantette](#)



LANSING, Mich. (WLNS)-- It's no secret that Michigan's roads aren't the best. From potholes, to cracks in the roads, miles of orange cones, we've got it all, but why does it have to be this way?

A recent study from a national transportation research group called "Trip," looked into just how bad the roads really are and how much it's costing drivers.

"We know there was some discussions going on in Michigan right now, and I think this study really illuminates some of the problems," said one of the authors of the

report, and Associate Director of Research and Communications at Trip, Carolyn Kelly.

Those discussions involving Governor Gretchen Whitmer's 45 cents-per-gallon gas tax increase. The money that comes out of Governor Whitmer's proposal, whether it's the gas tax or another alternative, would be where the funding for this plan would come into place.

The Michigan Road Funding Package in 2015, offered the state \$1.2 billion to help fix the roads, but according to officials, was not enough for a long term fix.

Chief Operations Officer at the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), Tony Kratofil, says they calculated that the cost to completely fix the roads and the price is around \$2.5 billion.

"With the right funding and the proper amount of funding, we can do long term fixes and things will last a lot longer," said Kratofil.

And that's not just all for pothole repairs.

"For years we've kind of been able to get by surfacing, repairing and fixing potholes, but now, most of our roads beyond that state of condition, we really have to rebuild from the ground up," said Kratofil.

The study found that statewide, 44 percent of roads are in either poor or mediocre condition. In the Lansing area alone, six of ten miles of major roads are in poor or mediocre condition, also coming out to 60 percent.

The study also found that the statewide total for vehicle operation costs is \$14.1 billion, averaging at about \$1,740 annually per driver.

"One way or another, drivers are paying a very high price tag, they can either pay to drive on a congested and deteriorated transportation system, or they can invest the money up front in improving and maintaining and fixing the roads," said Kelly.