Your pothole premium is running $648 a year*

A costly equation: Add tie-ups and poor road design, and Michigan drivers pay an average of $1,976 each

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Driving poorly maintained roads costs Michigan motorists an average of $648 a year in vehicle wear and tear, according to a national transportation research group.

The study by TRIP says the extra expenses of road despair—totaling an estimated $4.6 billion a year, divided by 7.1 million drivers—include accelerated depreciation, additional repair costs, and increased fuel consumption and tire wear.

The pothole premium isn’t the only one Michigan’s drivers pay, TRIP said.

Poor roadway design costs an estimated $539 per driver, based on research that shows it contributes to a third of serious and fatal crashes. The costs include lost productivity and higher insurance rates.

Then there’s traffic congestion, pegged at $789 per motorist in the form of lost time and wasted fuel.

As far as maintenance goes, however, TRIP found only about 1 in 3 major Michigan roads were in good condition, according to its analysis of 2017 data from the Federal Highway Administration. About 1 in 7 roads were labeled fair, and about 2 in 5 were in either mediocre or poor condition.

Detroit and Flint had the highest proportion of major roads in poor condition at 44 percent.

Meanwhile, about 11 percent of the state’s bridges are structurally deficient, the report said. The Saginaw-Bay City Midland region was highest with 20 percent.

Detroit drivers also paid the highest share of an estimated $5.6 billion a year statewide for traffic congestion, the group said, with an extra $1,278 per year. The Saginaw region…

“Michigan roads and bridges, as well as underground systems, are crumbling because of decades of underinvestment.” -Tony Kratofil, chief operations officer and chief engineer of the state Department of Transportation

TRIP report “Modernizing Michigan’s Transportation System” at bit.ly/PotholePremium