

Michigan's rural roads and bridges need significant repairs, study says

by Jason Puhr | Newschannel 3|

KALAMAZOO, Mich. — Rough roads and potholes were nothing new to Michiganders in 2019.

A new study painted a bleaker picture, saying Michigan roads were in dire need for repairs and modernization to improve conditions and boost safety.

Road Conditions

The study by TRIP, a national transportation research group, looked at rural road and bridge conditions throughout the country. Michigan ended up with lower grades than most states.

For rural roads, the study found the rate of traffic deaths on Michigan's non-Interstate, rural roads was nearly double the rate on all other roads in the state.

Bridge Conditions

Michigan bridges got a worse rating than the roads, finishing 11th for worst conditions. The study rated twelve percent of them as poor or structurally deficient.

In the study, the Director of the County Road Association of Michigan, Denise Donohue, said Michigan local bridges were rapidly declining in conditions.

"Requests by Michigan county road agencies for bridge funding to the statewide Local Bridge Advisory Board are six times the dollar amount available to fund repairs," Donohue said in the study. "Many road agencies don't even bother submitting deteriorating bridges for funding, as they know the waiting list is so long."

TOP 25 STATES WITH HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF MAJOR RURAL ROADS IN POOR CONDITION



The TRIP study ranked Michigan's rural roads as the 19th worst in the United States. It said the rate of traffic deaths on non-Interstate, rural roads was nearly double that on all other roads in the state. (TRIP)

Overall, Michigan ranked with the 19th worst rural road conditions. The study listed 16 percent of the state's roads in poor condition and 18 percent in mediocre condition.

Rhode Island finished with the worst rural road conditions overall. The [study](#) broke down the worst 20 states in each category compared to the national average.

TOP 25 STATES WITH HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF POOR/STRUCTURALLY DEFICIENT RURAL BRIDGES



The TRIP study ranked Michigan's rural bridges as the 11th worst in the United States. Twelve percent were rated as poor/structurally deficient. (TRIP)

In March, MDOT released an [interactive map with updated conditions on bridges](#) statewide. You could use it to look at the conditions of bridges you use.

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