

Maine's poor road conditions cost drivers \$1,400 per year, study says



PORTLAND, Maine — The average Portland-area driver spends nearly \$1,400 in car maintenance each year due to substandard roads, according to a new report.

The nonprofit TRIP released the report Thursday. It said 44% of Maine roads are rated as poor or in mediocre condition.

Experts said the cost drivers pay in car maintenance will continue to rise unless the state can get more funding to improve road and bridge conditions, ease congestion and enhance safety.

"I think the need is clear and the time to do maintenance is now. It doesn't get any cheaper to defer maintenance, and in order to have a vital economy, we need this backbone in our state to be safe and efficient," Maine Motor Transport Association Vice President Tim Doyle said.

With fewer cars on roads due to the pandemic, there are fewer tax dollars to go around to help with repairs and upgrades.