



Acadiana's #1 For New Country!

## POOR ROADS AND BRIDGES COST LOUISIANA DRIVERS BILLIONS EVERY YEAR



Bruce Mikells | Published: April 15, 2021



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The day we are born is the day we start dying. I know it is kind of a sobering way to start a story about our state's crappy roads but there is an analogy I want to make. That analogy is this, your car starts falling apart the minute you drive it off of your dealer's lot. A large part of the rapid attrition of your automobile is those crappy roads and bridges you have to drive on if you live in Louisiana.

The fact that [our state's often poorly maintained roads and bridges](#) have led to the early demise of many a vehicle in the state has been suspected for many years. That fact has now been confirmed [by the non-profit group TRIP](#). They've released the results of a survey they have done on Louisiana roads and their findings are jaw-dropping.

[The TRIP report suggests](#) that vehicle operating costs in our state in addition to traffic accidents and related congestion delays related to the state's failing infrastructure cost our state's drivers [about \\$7.6 billion, with a "b", every year](#).

Okay those figures, according to TRIP are for the entire state. How much do the poor roads, bridges, and assorted issues with our roadways cost you or me? The TRIP study found that you and I are paying about \$667 dollars in operating costs every year. It's the equivalent of adding an extra \$55 dollars to your car note every month.

Legislation has been filed for the current session of our state's legislature that would address funding for transportation infrastructure. President Joe Biden has proposed an infrastructure improvement plan too. But right now, all that is talk. It is going to require actual action to improve this situation for our state's drivers.

Naturally, money is the driving force behind any road improvements and that is not something our state has an overabundance of at this time. Hopefully, President Biden's plan or a similar plan that is expected to be offered by leading Republicans will garner enough support to help our state fill the potholes and rebuild the bridges that are falling apart.

Just know that in the meantime, every time you shake the fillings out of your teeth when you hit a pothole you've just taken a few more minutes off the life and performance of your automobile. So, please drive safely.

Now, if you've got money to burn and don't mind a few bounces along the way our state's roadways do offer some interesting scenery. But make sure you watch the road too because you never know when that monster pothole is going to reach out and grab your vehicle.

## 10 MUST-DRIVE ROADS IN ACADIANA



### Rookery Road at Lake Martin

When you turn off of Lake Martin Road onto Rookery Road at Lake Martin, the real beauty of this road isn't realized until you drive a few hundred yards. That's when the trees clear enough for you to get a good view of the lake. Migratory birds, alligators, turtles, cypress trees - the beauty abounds all around Lake Martin.



### Highway 104 Oberlin Road near Mamou

This is the part of the prairies of Acadiana where it's less marsh and swamp and more rice fields. Rice fields, sometimes, for as far as the eye can see. I don't know what you'd call the color of the rice as it's growing, but to me it is as green as green can be.



### Parish Road 195 to Butte la Rose

When you cross the pontoon bridge at the levee and take Parish Road 195 to Butte la Rose, you'll get a good idea of what the "Camp Life" is about. There are camps galore along this stretch of road, and many of them have signs displaying some really clever names.



### Live Oak Road near Bancker in Vermilion Parish

I grew up in Vermilion Parish, and Live Oak Road was always one of my favorite drives. It's a dead-end road along the Vermilion

River with twists and turns, oak trees with moss hanging, and the occasional wildlife crossing the road. Most of the drive gives you glimpses of the Vermilion River. The Bancker area might not look like much now, but at one time it was a bustling area.



### Highway 182 Through Franklin

Highway 182 is a great stretch of road for most of its length, but I wanted to point out the Franklin area due to its historic look. With the old storefronts and church steeples and the unique streetlamps, this particular stretch of 182 is one I've always enjoyed.



### Highway 14 West of Gueydan

I think that I like driving this roadway because I don't find myself here often. The scenery from Gueydan headed west starts with mostly farming communities and then you'll notice more of what appears to be ranch land. If you take a left when you hit Highway 27, you'll find yourself on another scenic highway all the way to the Gulf of Mexico.



### Highway 77 South of I-10

Highway 77 is a nice two-lane that slowly meanders its way south. Nothing in particular stands out to me other than it was a nice drive. We've done a few motorcycle group rides on this highway and eventually wound up in Pierre Part for lunch



### Highway 96 Catahoula Highway Oak and Pine Alley

Just Northwest of St. Martinville is Oak and Pine Alley. It is a short gravel road with a great canopy of (you guessed it) oaks and pines. There is a marker at the entrance of the road that tells the (tall) tale of spider webs spanning over the roadway coated in gold and silver.



### Highway 82 to Cameron Parish

I mentioned earlier that I grew up in Vermilion Parish. Well, almost every weekend almost every summer, we drove this route to get to Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge to crab and fish. When I was younger I thought that it was a very boring drive, but now that I am older and see the world in a different light, I see the beauty of this road. From the time you cross the Intracoastal Canal in Forked Island all the way to Cameron Parish, there is beauty everywhere. Plenty of land ripe for hunting, canals and bayous teeming with fish and crabs, alligators, ducks, geese, egrets, pelicans, marshland, cattle, oak trees gnarled from years of hurricanes. I have come to really love this drive.



### Highway 87 Old Jeanerette Road

The first time I drove the Old Jeanerette Road was when I was scoping out routes for the annual 'jeep jaunt'. I liked this road so much that we decided to use it for the event. It follows along the side of Bayou Teche and, in several places, the oak trees and Spanish moss hanging over the roadway makes you feel like you're in a movie about Louisiana. It's that picturesque. Throw in a few beautiful homes and rows and rows of sugarcane, and you've got yourself a fine Sunday drive!