

Survey shows multi-million-dollar deficit in SC transportation funding as population grows

by Simone Jameson | Wednesday, September 22nd 2021



RICHLAND COUNTY, S.C. (WACH) -- “While SC does a good job of attracting people and businesses to our state, we are not financially prepared to deal with increasing demands that is associated with this growth,” Jennifer Patterson, executive director with South Carolina Alliance for Fix Our Roads told WACH FOX News Wednesday.

This comes shortly after a [recent report from the national transportation research group TRIP](#) showed new numbers about the state of roads and bridges in the Midlands and a huge shortfall in funding to make improvements.

South Carolina’s Department of Transportation is asking for driver patience, as it faces a 403-million-dollar annual deficit in making needed repairs statewide, as indicated in the survey.

Lindy Cogdell-Fisher is one of tens of thousands of Richland County drivers waiting to see improvements to the roads she travels to work and home every day.

“Traffic is stopped bumper to bumper out here,” said Cogdell-Fisher. “Frustrating when you’re driving and going about your way and there is a pothole, or the pothole that has been patched has been washed out.”

She is referring to roads like McCords Ferry and Hard Scrabble in Richland County that are frequently congested, and others damaged by severe weather. The TRIP report states that eleven percent of major roads in Columbia alone are in poor condition and another 29 percent are in mediocre condition. Statistics were made worse by a surge in drivers amid the pandemic.

“The TRIP report also finds that in the Columbia area, seven percent of bridges are rated in poor condition and in need of immediate repair,” said Rocky Moretti, director of policy and research for TRIP.

South Carolina Department of Transportation representatives is highlighting a ten-year plan to make major improvements to the area’s most damaged roads.

“All of our roads are considered a priority. It is the state’s priority to maintain safety along our roads so that drivers are able to reach their destination safely,” said SCDOT Public Information Coordinator Brittany Harriot.

Department of Transportation representatives says people are welcome to call 1-855-GO-SCDOT with questions and concerns about road conditions in their area, as well as project timelines and more.