



Maine DOT commissioner reacts to study with poor rating for state's rural roads, bridges

A recent analysis from a national transportation research group found Maine's rural roads and bridges have "significant deficiencies."



October 18, 2022



NATIONAL RESEARCH FINDS MAINE'S RURAL ROADS AND BRIDGES HAVE "SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCIES"

MAINE'S
TOTAL
COVERAGE



AUGUSTA, Maine — TRIP, a national transportation research nonprofit group, is out with a new report reflecting poorly on Maine's rural roads and bridges.

However, Maine Department of Transportation Commissioner Bruce Van Note and one of the report's authors agree Maine has made significant progress in investing in improvement projects in recent years.

According to Trip, 15% percent of Maine's rural bridges are rated in poor/structurally deficient condition, the sixth highest rate in the nation and 20% of Maine's rural roads are rated in poor condition, the tenth highest.

"I don't think it reflects how we have kind of stepped up to meet those challenges," Van Note said.

Contributing factors to the ranking, Van Note said, are Maine's weather and geology, along with skyrocketing labor and supply costs.

"In Maine, the state has made progress in recent years in devoting additional funding to roads and bridges, and that has helped to improve the system," said Carolyn Kelly, Trip's director of communication and research.

It could take up to four years, Van Note said, for major planned projects to impact assessments, but meaningful progress is being made.

"You have this challenge, and you're addressing it," Van Note said.

Maine DOT credits governor mills with setting aside \$50 million for capital projects.

The agency also expects Maine to receive \$1.6 billion in federal funding for transportation improvements.