

Wausau roads costing drivers \$1,200 annually

by [Nick Robinson](#) | Wednesday, October 11, 2023



WAUSAU, Wis. -- (WAOW) Drivers in Wisconsin are no strangers to bumpy roads, but a new report from the [National Transportation Research Nonprofit](#), finds that roads in Wausau are costing drivers \$1,243 a year.

Officials say that includes a combination of driving on pothole-infested roads, burning gas while waiting in traffic, and lack of safety features. Rocky Moretti is one of the members of the nonprofit, and says that funding may be at the source of the city's problems.

Moretti said, "Often times, transportation agencies, due to a lack of funding, have to essentially look at a fix it first approach. They don't have enough money, so they just try to patch things up as best as they can. But as you would anticipate, that isn't really the best long-term strategy."

But help could be on the way, after congress passed a [bipartisan infrastructure bill](#), the Department of Transportation has \$5 billion dollars to help improve roads nation-wide. Tracy Johnson from the Transportation Development Association says it couldn't have come at a better time.

Johnson said, "This infrastructure investment is really the cornerstone for sustainability for our region, and we've done such a great job so far, but we can't take our eye off of the prize here."

Officials from AAA talked about the best way that money could be spent in order to help drivers.

Nick Jarmusz, the Midwest director of public affairs at AAA, said, "Infrastructure funding is a key part of the U.S.D.O.T. safe system approach, which aims to eliminate roadway fatalities by implementing new roadway designs and safety features that discourage speeding and reduce crashes."

The funding is expected to be given out through 2026, so hopefully, you'll have less dents in your car, and your wallet.