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A new report shines a light on rural roads and bridges in our state

A new report shows Oklahoma's rural roads and bridges have a high fatality rate and nearly a third of them are in less than stellar conditions. KOSU Ana Pope has more. Eight percent of Oklahoma's rural roads and bridges are in poor or structurally deficient condition and another 20% of rural roads are in mediocre condition, according to a report from TRIP, a national transportation research nonprofit. Rocky Moretti, the nonprofit's research and policy director, says Oklahoma's traffic fatality rate on non-interstate rural roads is nearly twice as high as on other roads in the state. "So clearly significant additional work needs to occur to keep people safer on Oklahoma's rural roads largely on two lane rural roads. Moretti says rural roadways are vital and funding efforts like the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act have been critical to improve them, but challenges like aging infrastructure and inflation pose problems.