

Nearly 50% of roads, highways across Oklahoma in bad condition, study says

by David Chasanov
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A new report from TRIP says 48% of roads and highways across the state are in poor or mediocre condition. (KOKH)

OKLAHOMA CITY (KOKH) — A new report says bad roads in the Oklahoma City area cost drivers \$2,571 annually.

A national transportation research nonprofit called [TRIP](#) says if a road is deteriorated, congested or lacks safety features, it's causing drivers some issues.

"Critical importance of making sure our transportation infrastructure is as safe as possible," Director of Policy & Research at TRIP Rocky Moretti said.

A new report from TRIP says 48% of roads and highways across the state are in poor or mediocre condition.

"This problem gets solved with money," Executive Director of the Association of Oklahoma General Contractors Bobby Stem said. "100%. Money is what buys asphalt, concrete, rebar and pays people to put those things on the ground."

According to the study, 32% of major roadways in Oklahoma City have pavement in poor condition. 21% of it is considered mediocre.

"It's critical to essentially keep your foot on the pedal in terms of funding those improvements," Moretti said. "When you fall behind it's hard to catch up."

The report reveals from 2019 to 2023, 3,462 people were killed in traffic crashes in Oklahoma.

"Clearly moving forward we have to have a transportation system that is keeping all travelers, whether they're motorists, pedestrians or bicyclists, safe."

State leaders say road improvements are crucial for not just safety, but for business too.

"Making that investment in Oklahoma's roads and bridges obviously will help attract new businesses to come here," Brent Skarky with the State Chamber of Oklahoma said. "It will also strengthen the ones that are already here."

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) provided Fox 25 with the following statement:

"It is important to recognize the needs of the transportation system outpace the resources we have available. The data driven analytics and engineering driven approach assists in understanding those needs and prioritizing the investments that materialize in these plans. We have to balance those investments across the entire state whether urban or rural, interstate or state highway, safety, bridge and pavements."

Fox 25 also asked ODOT the following questions:

- What is ODOT doing to make the financial burden easier on drivers when it comes to Oklahoma City-area roads and bridges that are deteriorated, congested or lacking roadway safety features.

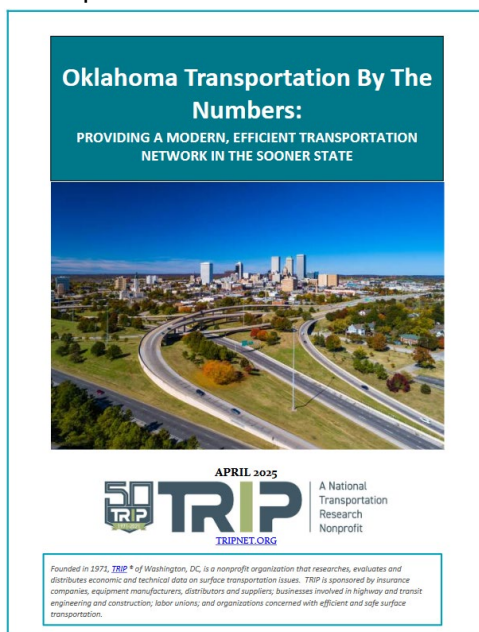
"ODOT puts together an 8-year Construction Work Plan and 4-year Asset Preservation Plan highlighting long-term projects of the department. These long-term plans are designed to enhance safety and travel reliability of the interstate and highway systems across Oklahoma. By operating through a long-term plan, the Department can maximize the number of transportation needs being addressed statewide. Long-range planning has helped the Department improve its national bridge condition ranking from 49th to top 10 over the last 20 years. Those plans can be found here: [8 Year Construction Work Plan](#)."

What is ODOT doing to address the 48% of roadways that are rated in poor or mediocre condition?

"It's worth noting the report encompasses all roads in the state. That includes ODOT managed roads (interstates, U.S. highways and state highways) as well as non-ODOT managed roads (county roads and city streets.) As for the ODOT roads, we have a robust 8-year construction work plan designed help enhance safety and reliability of the highway system statewide. Additionally, we have a 4-year asset preservation plan which focuses on maintenance improvements for the current infrastructure. These plans are updated annually to ensure pressing needs are being met while also finding budget efficiencies across the state."

How is ODOT going to stay on top of these issues while inflation among other things remains an obstacle for roadwork improvements?

"Construction costs have increased more than 60% since 2022. While some projects have been redistributed to accommodate rising costs, no projects were removed from the 8-year plan. This long-term approach helps us balance inflation while also maximizing budget efficiencies statewide. More information about the plan can be found here: [More than \\$9 billion in improvements scheduled for Oklahoma highways](#)."



TRIP report

[Click here to view the PDF file.](#)