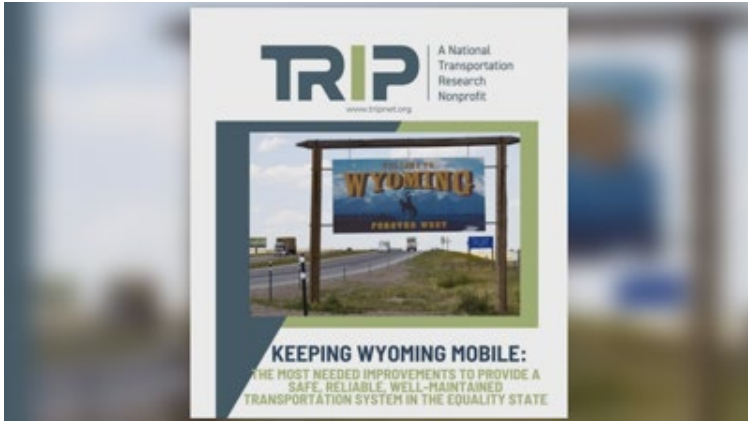


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# New Study finds WYDOT underfunded

Grace Swanke | Thursday, April 23, 2024



Cheyenne, Wyo., - A lack of funding will make it difficult to address Wyoming's transportation needs when it comes to maintaining and improving roads and bridges.

This is according to a new report released by TRIP on the Wyoming Department of Transportation.

"We have not done a good job because we just don't have the money," said WYDOT Director Darin Westby.

TRIP, a Washington, DC-based national transportation research nonprofit, asked WYDOT to look into the future and prioritize which projects are most critical to supporting quality of life in Wyoming.

Keeping people safe, maintaining the system in good condition, and providing routes for increasing freight travel.

"All of these have significant impacts in terms of improving the reliability of the system, allowing the state to accommodate economic growth, and finally, most critically, improving safety," said Rocky Moretti with TRIP.

The report examines road and bridge conditions, traffic safety, and funding needs.

It identifies 25 most needed transportation projects, but only three of which currently have construction funding.

TRIP reports that inflation in highway construction costs has increased by 52% since the beginning of 2022.

"That has certainly had a very significant challenge for the state moving forward with any critical projects,"

The report found that insufficient funding will make it difficult to maintain and improve the existing transportation system.

"We can't keep putting lipstick on that pig and thinking that it's going to last forever. At some point, we need to make good sound engineering decisions," said Westby.

33% of Wyoming's state-maintained roads were in poor condition in 2025.

Based on current funding, WYDOT estimates that by 2028, state-maintained roads in poor condition will increase to 37 percent, with an additional 250 miles of roadway falling into poor condition.

Westby says that as Wyoming grows and tourism traffic increases, the department is seeking funding solutions to meet the demand.

"It's another tool to help sell to the public, to help sell to the appropriators, and get support from the Governor's office to really put together a good funding strategy going forward,"