



a national transportation research group

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MICHIGAN’S ROAD AND BRIDGE CONDITIONS RECEIVE GRADE OF ‘D’ IN NEW REPORT, TRAFFIC SAFETY ASSIGNED GRADE OF ‘C-’, ‘C’ GRADE FOR CONGESTION; DETERIORATED ROADS AND BRIDGES MAY HAMPER MOBILITY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN MICHIGAN

ADDITIONAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING NEEDED TO IMPROVE ROAD AND BRIDGE CONDITIONS, RELIEVE TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND IMPROVE SAFETY

Eds.: LISTS CONTAINING DETERIORATED SECTIONS OF ROAD, STRUCTURALLY DEFICIENT BRIDGES AND SIGNIFICANTLY CONGESTED ROADWAYS IN THE DETROIT, GRAND RAPIDS AND LANSING AREAS ARE INCLUDED IN EACH REGION’S REPORT.

DETROIT, February 27, 2006 – Approximately two-fifths of major roads in Michigan are in poor condition and nearly one-third of bridges in the state are deficient, according to a new report released today by TRIP, a national nonprofit transportation research group. The report also evaluates and assigns grades to traffic congestion and traffic safety in Michigan.

The report, entitled “Making the Grade in Michigan: An Analysis of the Ability of Michigan’s Transportation System to Meet the State’s Need for Safe and Efficient Mobility,” finds that 38 percent of major roads in the state are rated in poor or mediocre condition, earning the state a grade of ‘D’ for its road conditions. The report also assigns a grade of ‘D’ to bridge conditions in Michigan, noting that 28 percent of the state’s bridges are rated as structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. Michigan also receives a grade of ‘C-’ for traffic safety, with an average of 1,286 fatalities occurring per year in the state. Congestion levels in Michigan earn the state a grade of ‘C’, with 31 percent of the state’s urban Interstates and other highways or freeways considered congested.

“The TRIP report highlights the benefits of creating an efficient, well-maintained and adequately funded transportation system,” said Claudia Berry, Senior Director of Transportation Policy for the Detroit Regional Chamber. “Investing in the state’s transportation system is good for public safety, it’s good for the economy, and it’s good for the quality of life in Michigan.”

According to the TRIP report, 14 percent of Michigan’s major roads were rated in poor condition and an additional 24 percent were in mediocre condition. Sixteen percent of bridges in Michigan are rated as structurally deficient, showing significant deterioration to decks and other major components. An additional 12 percent of the state’s bridges are functionally obsolete. These bridges do not meet modern design standards or are no longer adequate for the volume of traffic that they carry.

“Without an increase in transportation investment, Michigan will not be able to move forward with numerous projects that would enhance safety, improve road and bridge conditions, relieve congestion and attract economic development,” said William M. Wilkins, TRIP’s executive director.

Additional findings of the TRIP report:

- Forty-seven percent of Michigan’s major roads are in good condition. A desirable goal for state and local organizations that are responsible for road maintenance is to keep 75 percent of major roads in good condition.
- Vehicle travel on Michigan’s major highways increased by 27 percent from 1990 to 2004 – jumping from 81.1 billion vehicle miles traveled in 1990 to 103.3 billion vehicle miles traveled in 2004. At the same time, total lane miles in the state increased by only four percent.
- Michigan’s traffic fatality rate was 1.18 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles of travel in 2004. The state had a traffic fatality rate of 12.8 fatalities per 100,000 population in 2004.
- Vehicle travel in Michigan increased by 27 percent from 1990 to 2004, and is expected to increase another 25 percent by the year 2020.
- Michigan’s extensive network of roads and bridges is maintained by a combination of state, local and municipal governments.
- The deficiencies cited in this report are not a reflection of the effectiveness of state and local transportation agencies, but of a lack of adequate funding.