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## **MITA Highlights Need For Infrastructure Investment Plan**

The Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association announced that documents have been delivered to each legislator highlighting the need for a long-term and sustainable infrastructure plan and the effect it would have on funding to fix roads and bridges.

Legislative maps highlighted the percentage of roads in poor condition in each district based on 2022-23 PASER road condition data. More than 30 percent of roads, or more than 28,000 miles, in House and Senate districts are in poor condition.

The worst road conditions are in the 37th House District in Berrien and western Cass counties, with 59 percent of roads in poor condition and the 38th Senate District, which covers most of the Upper Peninsula, with 43 percent of roads also in poor condition. Areas with the best conditions are the 55th House District in Rochester and Rochester Hills at 7 percent of roads in poor condition and the 23rd Senate District in western Oakland County at 21 percent.

"For decades, Michigan has failed to meet road and bridge funding needs," Rob Coppersmith, the executive vice president of MITA, said in a statement. "Roads in poor condition and failing bridges contribute to accidents, traffic jams and fatalities, which drive up repair costs. As we continue to underinvest in infrastructure, fixing the problem becomes more and more expensive. We can no longer afford to keep kicking the can down the road."

MITA reiterated \$3.9 billion in additional revenues are needed annually to boost funding for roads and the construction industries which maintain road quality.

The 2024 National Transportation Research Group report found that Michigan drivers face \$5.9 billion, or \$758 per driver, in vehicle

operating costs per year due to driving on roads in poor conditions.

Michigan also received a grade of "D" in road quality and "D+" in bridge quality by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

"The data is clear: decades of underinvestment in Michigan's infrastructure is costing Michigan drivers a lot of money," Coppersmith said. "Without addressing this problem now, our roads will continue to deteriorate and repair costs will continue to rise, making the solution even more expensive than it currently is. We need Michigan's leaders to take action to address this crisis before it gets any worse."

– By Anna Rossow

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