

## **Get \$758 pothole payments this month**

May 5, 2025

Five Michigan residents will soon be reimbursed for vehicle repairs associated with the state's treacherous pothole season.

The Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association (MITA) expects to contact the first five winners of the Pothole Payback contest this week to set up payments.

MITA plans to pay up to \$758 to another five Michiganders this month, and again in June, in an effort to shine a light on the state's road funding shortcomings and the effects poor road condition have on Michigan drivers.

During the first month of the program, MITA received nearly 200 responses. Each entry included auto repair receipts, photos, and details about the incident a pothole caused for them.

April entries will be eligible for the May selection without having to re-submit. Additional drivers can continue to submit their stories through June.

One submission is allowed per driver, per month. By entering, participants give MITA permission to use submitted photos and their story on social media and campaign materials.

The association chose \$758 because it's the average cost of vehicle repairs from poor road conditions, according to a 2024 report from the Washington, D.C.,-nonprofit called TRIP.

Those average costs from driving on Michigan's rough roads are higher for residents in busier urban communities like Detroit (\$1,148), Flint (\$1,136), Lansing (\$940), and Grand Rapids (\$898), according to the TRIP report.

"Michigan is heading straight for a road funding cliff that threatens thousands of construction jobs, and our leaders must take action before it's too late," said Rob Coppersmith, MITA's executive vice president, in a prepared statement. "Our roads are crumbling, and Michiganders deserve real, lasting solutions.

"While the Legislature fails to act, we're shining a light on this crisis and helping families with car repairs."

MITA is a statewide construction trade association. Its "Fix MI State" campaign aims to raise awareness of the deteriorating roads and push for action from state leaders to increase funding.

Lawmakers are considering a package of bills that would shift more than \$3 billion more funding annually to fixing and maintaining Michigan's roads. The bills passed the House on March 19, and have been sent to the Senate for consideration.

"We know the road industry is doing all it can to fix our roads, given current funding and resources," Coppersmith said. "The Pothole Payback contest is a reminder to lawmakers of the depth of Michigan's road maintenance problems and the financial strain potholes place on drivers."