

TRANSPORTATION

Reality Check

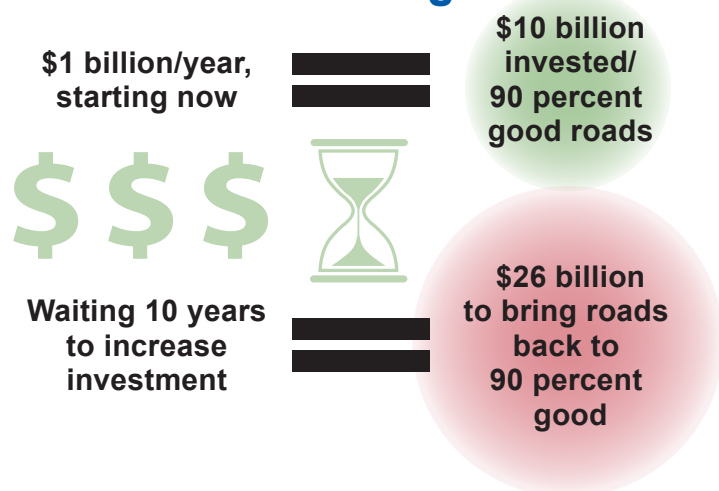
Myth #1: Michigan's roads and bridges aren't that bad, and there are plenty of other priorities.

Reality: Michigan's transportation system is hurting, and waiting just makes things worse.

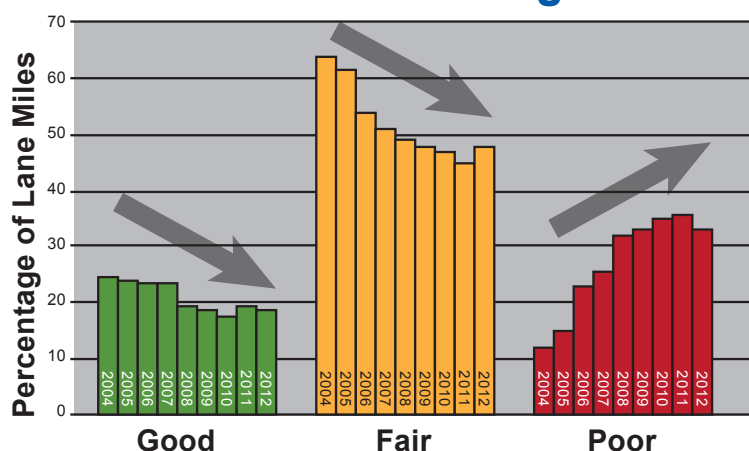
For many years, MDOT, county road commissions, and city public works departments have done the best they could with dwindling construction and maintenance funds and the higher costs of materials, keeping roads driveable and bridges safe. For the most part, that's worked to stave off the worst of the deterioration from weather, traffic and age. But now it's no longer enough, and more extensive work is inevitable. Roads and bridges are falling apart at a rapidly increasing rate, and the cost to repair them keeps rising.

Michigan's annual gas tax revenue has declined by roughly \$100 million over the past decade, while costs for asphalt, steel, concrete and fuel have risen.

The cost of waiting...



Road Conditions Getting Worse



Several studies have indicated that Michigan's transportation system is in desperate need of greater investment. Currently, it's believed that at the state and local level the system needs \$1.6 billion more each year to keep the components in good condition.

A long-term funding solution is needed, because as roads and bridges deteriorate, the cost to repair them increases greatly. As it stands, state highways could be kept in good conditions for about \$10 billion over 10 years. If we wait 10 years, roads and bridges will need more extensive work, materials will be more expensive, and the overall cost rises to \$26 billion.

Everyone wants good roads and safe bridges. *The question is, can we afford to wait until they fall apart to fix them?*

For more on this transportation myth, visit www.michigan.gov/realitycheck