Repair Priorities: 2014 Update

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Audio will broadcast automatically via web
or
Dial-in number: 800-736-4610

(Program will begin at 11:05 AM EDT)

#RepairPriorities
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Smart Growth America helps cities and states grow in ways that are fiscally responsible and economically sound. Maintaining our roads in a state of good repair is one way to do that.
States and the federal government remain in an era of budget belt-tightening and policymakers need to make limited funding go further and get the most out of the investments they’ve already made. Road repair does that.
Repair Priorities 2014

How have spending priorities and road conditions changed since Repair Priorities 2011?

What do these changes mean for state budgets and taxpayers?

What strategies can state and federal leaders use to improve road conditions for drivers and the financial outlook for America’s DOTs?
States are still investing more in road expansion than road repair and preservation.

Annual state spending on road expansion versus repair, 2009-2011.

Figures in billions.

- Expansion: $20.4 billion
- Repair: $16.5 billion

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At the same time road conditions got worse

- **Roads in "good" condition**
  - 2008: 41%
  - 2011: 37%

- **Roads in "poor" condition**
  - 2008: 17%
  - 2011: 21%
A looming financial problem: outstanding road repair need nationally

- How much do we currently spend on road repair and preservation?
- How much would we need to spend to get America’s roads into a state of good repair and keep them there?

Dollar figures in billions.

![Bar graph showing current spending on repair and preservation at $16.5 billion and repair and preservation need at $45.2 billion.]
If states had put the $20.4 billion they spent each year on expansion since 2008 toward repair, they could have cut the number of roads in poor condition in half by 2011.
Vermont

Richard Tetreault
Director of Program Development
Vermont Agency of Transportation

Photo: Virginia Guard Public Affairs, via Flickr
Michigan

Polly Kent
Administrator, Intermodal Policy Division
Michigan Department of Transportation

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Tennessee

Steve Allen
Strategic Transportation Investments Director
Tennessee Department of Transportation

Photos (from left): King Kong 911, J. Stephen Conn, via Flickr
Questions & Answers
Smart Growth America is the only national organization dedicated to researching, advocating for and leading coalitions to bring smart growth practices to more communities nationwide.

Taxpayers for Common Sense is a non-partisan budget watchdog serving as an independent voice for American taxpayers. Our mission is to achieve a government that spends taxpayer dollars responsibly and operates within its means.

www.smartgrowthamerica.org/repair-priorities