

Idaho Statesman

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National reports pan Idaho roads, praise drivers

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What's wrong with our roads? Idaho has the second-highest percentage of major rural pavement in poor condition, behind Vermont, says TRIP, a Washington, D.C., nonprofit that supports road and bridge construction.

TRIP says in 2008, 31 percent of the state's major rural roads were rated in poor condition, and another 26 percent were rated mediocre or fair. In 2010, 9 percent of Idaho's rural bridges were rated as structurally deficient and 9 percent as functionally obsolete.

A risk to Idahoans. Fatalities on Idaho's rural roads "remain disproportionately high," TRIP said — more than twice as high as on all other roads. Of the 226 Idaho traffic fatalities in 2009, 146 were on rural, non-interstate roads.

But wait, there's more. TRIP wasn't the only group issuing a report this week. Allstate Insurance Co. rated Boise second in the nation for safest drivers, behind only Fort Collins, Colo. The average Boise driver will have a collision once every 13.4 years, compared to the national average of every 10 years. Freeautoinsurancequotes.org showed Boise third-safest, with drivers 22.3 percent less likely to get into an accident.