

Pioneer Valley road conditions are hurting your wallets

Average driver in Springfield loses over \$1,600 a year

By Juliana Mazza



SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (WWLP) – The [national research group “TRIP”](#) found 87% of major Springfield area roads are in either poor or mediocre condition.

22News spoke with Rocky Moretti, one of the analysts who did this research. Moretti said there are a lot of problems that need to be fixed, especially in terms of safety. “You have a lot of congestion because your highway system can’t provide adequate mobility and you also in many

cases doesn’t have traffic safety features that we like to see to keep people safe.”

The group came up with a startling statistic; the average Springfield-area driver spends more than \$1,600 a year in extra costs because of poor road conditions.

Residents are concerned over the safety. George Vellen of West Springfield said, “You could lose control, you could crash into a building, crash into a guardrail, crash into pretty much anything.”

Road repairs are funded by the taxes you pay on gas. That’s why the group “Transportation for Massachusetts” told 22News this upcoming election will play a big role in when and if the rough roads get fixed.

According to Josh Ostroff of Transportation for Massachusetts, “If the voters reject proposition, Question 1 on election day that’ll add up to a \$5 a year per driver, but that adds up to a lot of roads and bridges we’ll be able to repair.”

So come election time, if you vote yes on ballot Question 1, you are voting to repeal the state’s automatic gas tax. Even though that could save you money at the pumps, it could mean less money for the state, and less money to fix our roads.

Elections Day is on November 4th. [Click Here for more information on Question 1.](#)