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WYOMING TRANSPORTATION FUNDING SHORTFALL WILL LEAD TO INCREASING ROAD AND BRIDGE DETERIORATION, INCREASED COSTS TO DRIVERS AND LOST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Cheyenne, Wyoming – At a time when Wyoming faces an annual transportation funding shortfall of \$332 million to improve its transportation system, one-fifth of the state’s major roads are deteriorated, nearly a quarter of bridges are in need of repair or replacement, and the state’s traffic fatality rate is among the highest in the nation. Unless the state can increase transportation investment, conditions are projected to worsen significantly in the future. Increased investment in transportation improvements could improve road and bridge conditions, boost safety, and support long-term economic growth in Wyoming, according to a new report released today by [TRIP](http://tripnet.org), a Washington, DC based national transportation organization. The TRIP report, “[Wyoming Transportation by the Numbers: Meeting the State’s Need for Safe and Efficient Mobility](#),” provides data on key transportation facts and figures in the state:

\$109.5 million	Maintaining Wyoming’s transportation system in its current condition would require an additional investment of \$109.5 million annually over the next decade. Improving the state’s transportation system and making needed safety and capacity enhancements would require an additional \$332 million each year for the next decade.
\$332 million	
\$250 million	To keep pace with the transportation needs of the state’s rapidly growing energy extraction sector, WYDOT estimates that at least \$250 million in additional transportation projects are needed to improve and expand the state’s roads, highways and bridges to accommodate increased traffic.
21% 34 %	Due to a lack of available transportation funding, the number of miles of roadway in poor condition is projected to increase from 21 percent in 2012 to 34 percent in poor condition in 2023.
23 %	Currently, a total of 23 percent of Wyoming bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.
46 %	Under current funding, the number of bridges in need of significant repair or reconstruction in Wyoming is expected to increase 46 percent from 396 currently to 579 by 2023.
793 159	Between 2006 and 2010, a total of 793 people were killed in traffic crashes in Wyoming, an average of 159 fatalities per year.
5th	Wyoming’s traffic fatality rate of 1.62 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles of travel is the fifth highest in the nation.
\$187 million \$461	TRIP estimates that additional vehicle operating costs borne by Wyoming motorists annually as a result of poor road conditions is \$187 million statewide, or \$461 per motorist.
64 %	Vehicle miles of travel (VMT) in Wyoming increased 64 percent from 9.6 billion VMT in 1990 to 9.6 billion VMT in 2010. By 2030, VMT in Wyoming is projected to increase an additional 40 percent.
216,496	There are 216,496 licensed drivers in Wyoming.

According to the TRIP report, the state faces an annual transportation funding shortfall of \$109.5 million over the next decade in the cost just to maintain its transportation system in its current condition. In order to improve Wyoming's roads and bridges and make needed safety and capacity enhancements, the state would need to spend an additional \$332 million each year for the next decade. Projects needed to accommodate the state's rapidly growing energy extraction sector will total at least \$250 million in additional funds.

"Roads are the lifeblood of Wyoming's economy. The TRIP report confirms what many in our state are coming to understand: the challenges of maintaining Wyoming's transportation system are significant and more work needs to be done to improve the state's roads," said Jonathan Downing, CEO of the Wyoming Contractors Association.

Because of this lack of transportation funding, road and bridge conditions are projected to worsen significantly in the future. Currently, 21 percent of miles of roadway are in poor condition. However, under current funding conditions, 34 percent of miles of roadway will be in poor condition by 2023. Bridge conditions will also deteriorate without additional funding. A total of 23 percent of the state's bridges are currently structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. The number of bridges in need of significant repair or reconstruction will increase by 46 percent by 2023 under current funding conditions.

Driving on rough roads costs Wyoming motorists an average of \$461 each annually in extra vehicle operating costs – a total of \$187 million statewide. Costs include accelerated vehicle depreciation, additional repair costs, and increased fuel consumption and tire wear.

Wyoming's traffic fatality rate of 1.62 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles of travel (VMT) is the fifth highest in the nation and 46 percent higher than the national average of 1.11 fatalities per 100 million VMT. Wyoming's traffic fatality rate on rural, non-Interstate routes is more than double that on all other roads and highways in the state. Roadway features are likely a contributing factor in approximately one-third of all fatal and serious traffic crashes. Traffic crashes in Wyoming claimed the lives of 793 people between 2006 and 2010. The traffic fatality rate in 2010 on Wyoming's non-Interstate rural roads was 2.12 traffic fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles of travel, nearly double the 1.19 traffic fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles of travel on all other roads and highways in the state. Where appropriate, highway improvements can reduce traffic fatalities and crashes while improving traffic flow to help relieve congestion.

"These key transportation numbers in Wyoming add up to trouble for the state's residents in terms of deteriorated roads and bridges, reduced traffic safety and constrained economic development," said Will Wilkins, executive director of TRIP. "Improving road and bridge conditions, improving traffic safety and providing a transportation system that will support economic development in Wyoming will require a significant boost in funding for road, highway and bridge improvements."