

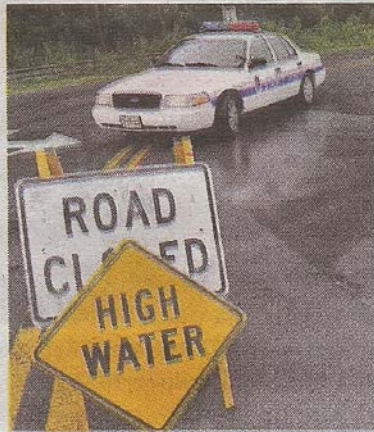
## Study: Md. Roads Awful

Group says 44 percent of state's highways are aging, inadequate

### Baltimore

Forty-four percent of Maryland's major roads are in bad condition, 25 percent of the state's bridges are deteriorating or obsolete, and only an unlikely infusion of federal money can halt the decline, according to a report issued Tuesday.

Like every other state in the nation, Maryland is saddled with a system of aging roads and bridges that cannot be revitalized unless Congress provides the cash, said the report by TRIP, a nonprofit national transportation research group.



An officer blocks Brock Bridge Road in Laurel, Md., due to high water in August.

The group estimated that the combination of bad roads, congestion delays, and the crashes caused by both cost Maryland drivers \$7 billion a year.

“The efficiency of Maryland’s transportation system, particularly its highways, is critical to the health of the state’s economy,” the report said. Maryland’s dilemma, as expressed in the TRIP report, is a microcosm of the national plight.

TRIP said 7 percent of Maryland bridges suffer from deterioration of the bridge deck, supports or other major components. An additional 18 percent no longer meet current highway design standards, often because of narrow lanes, inadequate clearances or poor alignment.

Drawing on data from 2008, the report said 26 percent of the state’s roads showed signs of deterioration, including rutting, cracks and potholes. (THE WASHINGTON POST)