

## Monday, April 8, 2013: Donations, infrastructure and elders

### Road 'cents'

This letter is in regards to the condition of the roads and bridges Mainers travel on every day.

Throughout the state, approximately one in three miles of major locally or state-maintained roads and highways have deficient pavements, providing motorists with a rough ride, according to an [October 2012 report by TRIP](#). TRIP is a [nonprofit organization](#) that works to promote policies designed to improve traffic conditions.

The report also states that rough roads cost the average Bangor driver \$375 annually and that in the Bangor urban area, 18 percent of major urban roads are rated in poor condition; 22 percent are rated in mediocre condition; 27 percent are rated in fair condition; and 33 percent are rated in good condition.

Nearly a third — 30 percent — of Maine's bridges 20 feet or longer are currently rated as structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. Fourteen percent of Maine's bridges 20 feet or longer are rated as structurally deficient. Sixteen percent of Maine's bridges are rated functionally obsolete, according to the organization.

Maine's traffic fatality rate on rural, non-Interstate routes is approximately seven times higher than on all other roads and highways in the state. Ninety percent of all traffic fatalities in the state in 2010 occurred on rural, non-Interstate roads, TRIP reported.

According to the Maine Revenue Forecasting Committee, the Maine State Highway Fund has a \$20.3 million dollar shortfall for the 2014-2015 biennium.

Our infrastructure is falling apart around us.

We should not be spending our limited state and federal tax dollars on the I-395/Route 9 connector project or any other new project, while we are forced to drive every day on deficient roads and bridges.

In this current fiscal environment, adding more miles to the state's transportation system without adequately maintaining the existing infrastructure doesn't make "cents."

**Larry Adams**

*Brewer*

[Click here to view online.](#)