

Where Michigan ranks on roads

From a national perspective, Michigan ranks near the bottom of the 50 states in several key categories:



Per-person spending

When state and local spending is combined, then divided among residents, Michigan spends \$211.



Percent of total spending

Spending on roads in Michigan accounts for 5.3 percent of all state and local spending. New Mexico is tops at 14.8 percent.



Return of federal money

Since 1956, of every dollar Michigan sends to Washington, about 91 cents comes back. The average state gets \$1.16.

Cost to drivers

Nationally, the average driver pays \$100 annually in state gasoline taxes, compared to \$78 in Michigan. Using this chart, you can estimate how much you spend a year — and how much more a 4-cent increase will cost. It assumes the car gets 20 miles per gallon:

Miles driven	Cost now	4-cent increase
6,000	\$45	\$12
8,000	\$60	\$16
10,000	\$75	\$20
12,000	\$90	\$24
14,000	\$105	\$28
16,000	\$120	\$32

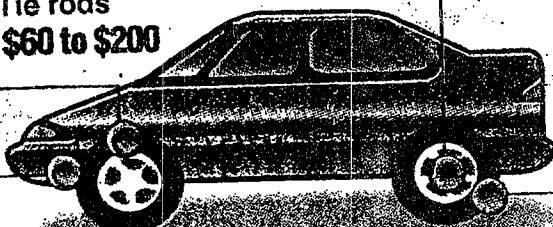
Common car problems created by potholes

Advocates of a gas tax increase say the extra cost is almost a bargain for drivers if better roads reduce repair bills. AAA of Michigan estimates the poor condition of Michigan roads results in a \$121 cost to the average driver each year. Here's a look at some common problems and their price to fix. Costs will vary by vehicle and repair shop.



■ Front-end shock absorbers/struts
\$200

■ Tie rods
\$60 to \$200



■ Wheel realignment
\$60

■ New wheel
- steel
\$50 to \$60
- aluminum
\$125 and up

■ New tire
\$40 to \$150

■ Repair flat
\$12

LST MAY 25, 1997 CST

