The Cost of DOING NOTHING

For an electronic version of this and other resources on how highway funding can help your bottom line, visit our web site at www.infrastructuretexas.org.
By now, Texans know a lot about gas taxes, tolls, and registration fees. But what about the hidden costs no one talks about? The ones that are left to you, the consumer, to absorb?

The truth is, you already spend more than you should on Texas highways. By failing to invest in highways, the cost is shifted to you in the form of wasted time stuck in traffic, damage to your vehicle, accelerated tire wear, and increased likelihood of being in a serious accident. These cost you thousands of dollars more than any highway funding increases proposed by state leaders.

Underfunding highways costs Texans more, not less. If you don’t want to overspend for using Texas highways, you should know:

**You already are.**

*That’s the cost of doing nothing.*

Stop paying with your time, your safety and your pocketbook. Tell your legislators to invest in highways again.

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**The Biggest Transportation Cost Isn’t the Gas Tax. It’s the Hidden Costs No One Talks About.**

**Stop paying with your time, your safety and your pocketbook. Tell your legislators to invest in highways again.**

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**This is what you pay right now because of underfunded highways:**

**Safety: You Pay**

- **$948 annually for each Texas resident** in accident-related costs.*
- **$6.5 billion statewide** due to serious accidents caused by older roads which do not meet current safety design safety standards. (Includes lost productivity, lost earnings, medical costs and emergency services.)*

**Household Expenditures: You Pay**

- **$343 annually for each Texas driver** in additional repair costs, increased fuel consumption, and tire wear due to poorly maintained roads. That’s **$5.3 billion statewide**, every year.*
- **$1,500 in total congestion costs every year** per Texas household. By 2035, it increases to over **$5,000 per year.**

**Quality of Life: You Pay**

- **37 hours every year** in traffic delays for each urban or metro motorist.**
- In 15 years, your wasted time doubles to **74 hours.**

**Texas Economy: We All Pay**

- Congestion costs the Texas economy **$10.8 billion** per year. By 2025, that number will reach almost $30 billion.**
- Underfunding highways increases the cost of everything you purchase. From the groceries you buy off the shelf to the goods you buy online, transportation costs are factored in.

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**This is what you could pay with well-funded highways:**

Raising highway investment will save you money. Everyone with a vehicle knows that prevention costs less than repairs. By investing in highways, your household costs go down.

- Texas households currently invest **$232 per year** for their roads. At **this level of spending, it costs you $6,095 in total vehicle use and maintenance costs.***
- An additional **$174 in taxes and fees** reduces your total vehicle costs to **$4,825 and saves you $1,096.***
- An additional **$279 reduces total vehicle costs to $4,228 and saves you $1,588.***
- **$402 more each year reduces your total costs to $3,652 and saves you $2,041.***

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**Resources**

* The Road Information Program (TRIP)  
  http://www.tripnet.org/

** Texas Transportation Institute (TTI)  
  http://tti.tamu.edu/

*** 2030 Committee  
  http://texas2030committee.tamu.edu/

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**Save money. Invest in Texas highways.**