West Virginia’s transportation infrastructure is facing a major funding crisis and, if left unresolved, will continue to deteriorate at an accelerated and alarming rate.

THIS ISSUE’S FACT: CONSUMER IMPACT FACTS

- The TRIP report, released February 2017, shows the state’s deficient roads and bridges are costing West Virginian motorists a total of $1.4 billion statewide annually. (See TRIP report at www.keepwvmoving.org.)

- This works out to as much as $1,439 per driver in some urban areas due to higher vehicle operating costs, traffic crashes and congestion and related delays. Flat tires, bent rims, front-end alignments, brakes and wear and tear on vehicles cost all drivers.

- Traffic crashes in West Virginia claimed the lives of 1,548 people between 2011 and 2015. The state’s 2015 overall traffic fatality rate of 1.35 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles of traffic was significantly higher than the national average of 1.13.

- The fatality rate on West Virginias rural non-interstate roads is nearly three times higher than all other roads in the state.

- Statewide, the report shows 29 percent of West Virginia’s major roads are in poor condition, 55 percent are in mediocre or fair condition, and the remaining 17 percent are in good condition.

- The state’s repaving cycle for secondary roads will soon go to a nearly 33-year cycle.

- Engineers have long known that good preservation, preventative maintenance and programmed maintenances are essential to economical pavement and bridge performance and life. Studies show that investing $1.00 at the appropriate time in pavement maintenance can save $4 to $10 in future costs.

- In West Virginia, to repair a bridge deck with a concrete overlay costs $23 a square foot. To replace a bridge deck and steel after it is beyond repair costs $98 a square foot.

- A typical interstate bridge amounts to about 12,000 square feet. To repair this bridge, it would cost $296,000. To replace, it would cost $1,176,000. It costs more than four times to replace versus repair a bridge deck.

- On a secondary road, to pave a mile of two-lane road with a 1” to 1.5” wearing course costs around $125,000. If the road is to point that the surface needs to be milled off, and a base coat put down before the 1” to 1.5” wearing course is applied, the cost is about $376,000.

- Rebuilding a mile of two-lane road versus maintaining it costs 200 percent more.