

The State of Ontario's Road and Bridges

Municipalities own more roads and bridges than any other type of infrastructure. Every year, roads and bridges are the number one investment category for federal Gas Tax funds in Ontario. More than \$1.75 billion has been invested since 2005, representing 55 per cent of total Gas Tax funding.

Our Case Study reveals a comprehensive and up-to-date picture of the state of roads, bridges and culverts in Ontario. It analyzes the infrastructure's current condition, determines how much money is needed to keep the assets in a state of good repair and explores the role of the federal Gas Tax Fund in leveraging those investments.

What's different about this study?

It's not survey based. Results are based on an asset-by-asset lifecycle and condition analysis. This study cannot be compared with previous infrastructure deficit studies.

Findings are based on analysis of 93 municipalities. 93 municipalities with the most complete lifecycle and condition data were identified and analyzed.

24 per cent of Ontario's population is represented. The 93 municipalities analyzed represent 24 per cent of Ontario's population, a statistically significant portion.

Key Results:

32%



- **32 per cent of assets are in poor to very poor condition** with a replacement cost of \$9 billion.



- **Assets with condition data are performing better than their age data suggests.** This means that municipalities have been completing appropriate maintenance and repairs with the resources that are available to them.

\$5 billion
DEFICIT

- **Infrastructure deficit of \$5 billion.** That means that it would cost \$5 billion to replace assets that have reached the end of their life cycle.

\$0.5
billion/yr.

NEEDED

- **Annual infrastructure gap of about \$0.5 billion.** Our sample municipalities would ideally spend \$911 million each year to maintain existing assets that have some life remaining. However, they are short by \$462 million every year.

Role of the federal Gas Tax Fund

The federal Gas Tax Fund is a critical source of funding for roads and bridges in Ontario, accounting for an average of 29 per cent of total annual funding for these assets.

Moving Forward

There is a need for ongoing capacity building work within Ontario municipalities as the increased use of condition assessments is essential for prudent asset management planning. In the lead up to Gas Tax Fund outcomes reporting in 2018 and 2023, the results of this study will provide a baseline on the state of the infrastructure and availability of condition data.

This study was not intended to find a solution to eliminate the municipal infrastructure deficit. Not all failing infrastructure can be fixed at once. The starting point is to develop an asset management plan and prioritize infrastructure projects over the long term.

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