

## Roads need repair

Nearly 23 percent of major roads in the nation's largest urban areas are in desperate need of repair, according to a recent The Road Information Program (TRIP) study. The nonprofit transportation research group reports that the roads in these areas have significant deterioration and need either immediate repair or reconstruction. This is in addition to another 27 percent of the nation's roads that were rated as mediocre and needed immediate repair to be in good condition. "Motorists in our nation's largest cities are in for a rough ride every time they drive unless needed road improvements are made," says William Wilkins, executive director of TRIP. The study, "Rough Ride in the City: How Poor Road Conditions Increase Motorists' Costs," also concludes that these cities are paying an average of \$358 per motorist in extra vehicle operating costs to drive on the deteriorated roads. "Motorists are paying hidden taxes as a result of extra vehicle operating costs resulting from additional tire wear, extra fuel consumption, and vehicle deterioration caused by driving on roads in need of repair," says Wilkins.■