

Highway woes crippling state

Friday, July 11

I was amazed to read how much it's actually costing us when we drive over potholes and are stuck in traffic ("Roads take toll on state," June 23).

Hopefully it was a wake-up call for our elected officials too. It's bad enough that gas prices have risen to unprecedented levels, but now we're being hit from this angle as well.

Out in this part of the state we're used to being slighted by the politicians on Beacon Hill who can't see past Boston, but this problem is bigger than Boston. The story was right, the state of our transportation system is dragging down our ability to be competitive with other states and other countries. But even worse, it's not safe.

When is Massachusetts going to learn that we need to learn from the tragedies in other states — like last year's bridge collapse in Minneapolis — before it happens here?

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Unpaved with no intentions

Friday, July 11
To the editor:

The recent story about the condition of the state's transportation system (Highlights from report on Mass. roads, bridges, June 23) is not surprising to me at all. If anyone has driven around this area, they will see the same thing I do: a mess.

What is more surprising is that our elected leaders have let it go on for this long. The status quo of failing to invest in our roads, bridges and transit cannot continue. Otherwise, the costs we pay for sitting in traffic and driving for potholes will continue to climb -- not to mention the increased risk to our safety.

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Friedman: State road money needed

By Alex Friedman

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Belmont, Mass. -

I'm glad the Belmont Citizen-Herald carried last week's story online ("Report: Lack of funding, preparation for future threaten roads," June 23) on the new report by the Mass. Transportation Investment Coalition which details the dearth of investment in Massachusetts transportation infrastructure and the problems that taxpayers, drivers, and transit users are bound to experience in years to come. These problems have been around for a long time and they demand attention.

These costs are eventually borne by all of us who have no choice but to continue to drive on roads that waste their time, damage their vehicles, and imperil their safety.

That is why people worried about the election, the economy, and the Middle East still find time to care about transportation. It's a conversation that is long overdue, and it should continue to take place in our media and on our streets until we can feel safe.

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<http://www.wickedlocal.com/belmont/news/opinions/letters/x1815720873/Friedman-State-road-money-needed>

Hard travelin' here

By Matt Renner | Thursday, July 3, 2008 | <http://www.bostonherald.com> | [Letters to the Editor](#)

This story ("Study: Mass. roads taking toll on state's motorist\$," June 23) is another smack in the face for taxpayers. It is unbelievable that this state would allow the roads and bridges to get so bad and cost taxpayers so much. It's bad enough the Longfellow Bridge is closing down for people to watch the July 4 fireworks. I can only imagine what will happen in other parts of the state if we don't start tackling this problem.

- Matt Renner, Belmont

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