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Report: TxDOT not spending enough on maintaining roads



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As a majority of Texas' state-owned roads deteriorated out of good condition, the state's transportation department spent less than one-fourth on maintenance as it did on expanding roads, a **new report found**.

The report from anti-sprawl advocacy group **Smart Growth America** says the **Texas Department of Transportation** spent **62 percent** of its capital expenditures expanding major roads between 2004 and 2008. That equals about **\$4.1 billion** a year. During the same time, **11 percent** went to repairing and maintaining existing roads. That's about **\$692 million** a year. By 2008, only **34 percent** of the state's roads were in good condition, the study found.

I'm waiting on word from TxDOT about what they think about the study. Not sure yet if they knew about it ahead of time.

The agency has long said it **does not have enough funds** to keep building highways and maintaining what's in the system.

TxDOT typically expands highways to keep ahead of projected population growth. That's expected to change as the agency continues to work with lackluster funding for its needs. Yet Texas' population is expected to double in coming decades, meaning more people will be driving state roads and highways.

Smart Growth sees a national problem brewing. The group says nationwide, departments of transportation spent **\$20.4 billion** annually on expansion between 2009 and 2011 but only **\$16.5 billion** annually on repairs.

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