Myth #4: Ohio’s roads are so much better than Michigan’s. MDOT needs to learn how Ohio does it so they can build better roads.

Reality: There’s no secret to why Ohio’s roads are better than Michigan’s. They spend $1 billion more each year on them.

This one’s not really a myth - Ohio does have better roads. The myth has more to do with why Ohio’s roads are better.

It’s not a lack of know-how, it’s a lack of investment.

For the past 50 years, Michigan has ranked in the lowest 10 states in the country for investment in roads. In fact, a recent examination of U.S. Census data shows that Michigan invests less in transportation per capita than every other state in America.

Michigan spends about $154 per person on roads, compared to $214 per capita in Ohio, a difference of $60 per person. That may not sound like a big difference, but it adds up to more than $1 billion more invested in Ohio’s roads each and every year for the past nine years. That’s almost as much as the $1.3 billion additional annual investment in Michigan roads that Gov. Snyder has called for.

A look at some of Michigan’s Great Lakes neighbors yields some even more telling differences. Minnesota invests $275 per capita in roads - $121 more, and Indiana spends $289 per capita - $135 more. Wisconsin spends almost twice as much per capita as Michigan does, at $302 per person, and Illinois invests $412 per capita - $258 more per person. Pennsylvania invests $530 per capita, more than three times what Michigan spends.

Ohio’s DOT doesn’t have any secret method for building smoother, longer-lasting roads. They just spend more to get them.

For more on this transportation myth, visit www.michigan.gov/realitycheck