

TRANSPORTATION

Reality Check

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.

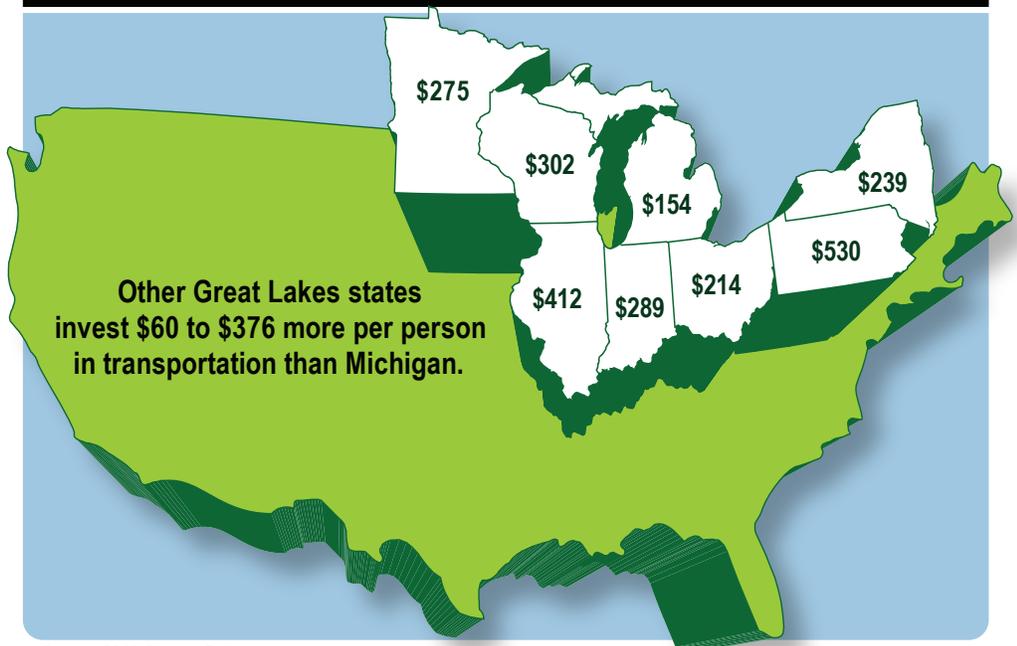
It's not a lack of know-how, it's a lack of investment.

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

Per Capita State Investment in Roads



Source: 2010 Census Data

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