U.S Worst and Best Roads

Readers Digest magazine has rated the five Best and seven Worst roads in the U.S. “Reader’s Digest measured highway condition, bridge condition, congestion, and safety. Using the most recent federal data, we sorted the states for each factor from best to worst and assigned a rank, with 1 the best and 50 the worst. An overall score for each state was determined by computing an average weighted rank across the four factors. Then an overall ranking for the states was determined by sorting the overall score from lowest to highest and assigning a rank, with (1) being the best and (50) being the lowest.”

The ratings are:

**Best Roads**
1. I-35 through Kansas (and Kansas roads in general)
2. Montana interstates
3. I-75 in northern Florida
4. I-80 in Utah
5. I-95 between Elkin, Maryland, & Baltimore
6. I-70 through Kansas
7. I-40 across New Mexico and California
8. I-44 and I-70 in Missouri
9. I-84 in Oregon

**Worst Roads**
1. L-55 in Louisiana
2. I-12 east of Baton Rouge
3. I-15 in California (from Barstow to the Nevada state line)
4. I-79/I-70 interchange in Pennsylvania
5. The Pennsylvania Turnpike, I-78 and I-80 in Pennsylvania
6. I-95 over the George Washington Bridge, New Jersey/New York
7. The Will Rogers Turnpike (Interstate 44), Oklahoma
8. Interstate 5, California
9. The 101 (Ventura Freeway) to 405 interchange, California
10. Sunset Boulevard (between West Hollywood and Beverly Hills)
11. The Lake Pontchartrain Causeway
12. Highway 51 from Lafayette to St. Martinville, Louisiana
13. Pennsylvania roads in general.
14. Tulsa’s Inner Dispersal Loop, Oklahoma
15. The High Rise on Interstate 10 in Louisiana

When all Worst Road factors were considered by Reader’s Digest, using data from 2007 and ’08, Kansas got the nod for Best Roads in the nation, and Louisiana was dead last.

Louisiana did not make the Deadliest Road category Top 10 -- it placed 11th, just behind Texas.


Fewer LaDOTD Roads?

LaDOTD is looking at ways to reduce their cost of operation. One possibility is to reduce the number of miles of roads according to Eric Kalivoda, the Deputy Secretary of LaDOTD. By eliminating as much as 5,000 miles of road and the bridges along them, from their current 16,687 miles of road, the annual maintenance costs of the road and bridge maintenance can be cut.

The roads and bridges would revert to the various cities, towns and parishes where they are located. But before the transfer would take place, the roads and bridges would be brought into good shape. In addition, the Annual Parish Transportation Fund would be increased to each city, town and parish where such road transfers would be made.

In the current Legislative session HCR38 “Requests DOTD to study reducing the size of DOTD and the distribution of state highway miles.”

More Worst and Best Roads

Overdrive Magazine is one that focuses on the trucking industry and their drivers. They do an annual survey of owners/operators. The results this year are:

**BEST ROAD**
1. I-40 Tennessee
2. I-75 Florida
3. I-10 Florida

**WORST ROADS**
1. I-80 Pennsylvania
2. I-2 Louisiana
3. I-81 Pennsylvania

**MOST IMPROVED ROAD**
1. I-80 Pennsylvania
2. I-2 Louisiana
3. I-81 Pennsylvania

**BETTER ROADS**
1. Florida
2. Texas
3. Tennessee

**WORST ROADS**
1. Pennsylvania
2. Michigan
3. New York

Comments about Louisiana roads included — “I-10 in Louisiana stands at the opposite end of the spectrum. For four years, I-10 has topped the list of worst highway segments in the Overdrive survey.”
One driver said “gone airborne on that road a couple of times.” While the posted speed limit is 70 mph, he says he’s driven as slowly as 45 mph to reduce the road’s impact on his tractor-trailer.

LaDOTD would like to widen I-10’s lanes statewide from four lanes to eight, but there is no funding in place for that anytime soon. Still, I-10 is in better condition than five years ago. That’s borne out in the survey, in which I-10 finished in second place for most improved highway.

LaDOTD Secretary Resigns

LaDOTD Secretary William Ankner submitted his resignation effective February 5. Governor Bobby Jindal selected Ankner when he took office. The resignation comes soon after controversy regarding the selection of a firm for a Design/Build project in the Baton Rouge area.

Sherri LeBas has been selected as Interim Secretary. Ms. LeBas was Deputy Director Secretary with LaDOTD. She has 18 years experience with LaDOTD and is a licensed engineer.

LaDOTD Selects New Chief Engineer

LaDOTD has selected Richard Savoie as their new Chief Engineer. He replaces Bill Temple who recently retired. Savoie has a Bachelor’s Degree in Civil Engineering and has 30 years experience with LaDOTD. He has been Deputy Chief Engineer at LaDOTD and is also currently a member of the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

Legislative Bills

HB 65 - Requires DOTD to include Hornbeck-Plainview Road in Sabine and Vernon parishes in the state highway system
HB 160 - Prohibits local governments from using mounted traffic cameras to issue traffic violations
HB 211 - Allows off-road vehicles to be operated on state college and university streets
HB 369 - Authorizes DOTD to use monies from the Transportation Trust Fund to fund ferries that are not connected to state roads
HB 383 - Prohibits governing authorities from imposing civil fines for traffic violations enforced by automated traffic enforcement systems without a vote of the people
HB 385 - To make changes to “Road Show” hearings process
HB 386 - Changes Highway Prioritization process
HB 882 - Authorizes DOTD to perform repairs to bridges and roadways in wildlife management areas
HCR 38 - Requests DOTD to study reducing the size of DOTD and the distribution of state highway miles
SB 292 - Constitutional amendment to require that at least 60% of capital outlay appropriation be for road and bridge construction and maintenance; and at least 20% for deferred maintenance on state buildings for next five years.
SCR 13 - Requests that parish-governing authorities provide markings or striping on parish roads.

Preston Eggers Receives LGRTA “Person of the Year” Award

Preston Eggers, one of the founders and long time Secretary-Treasurer of the Louisiana Good Roads Association (shown above with LGRTA President Ken Perret) received the second Annual “Person of the Year” Award.

Preston worked for Louisiana Associated General Contractors for about forty years, and then became Secretary-Treasurer and one of the founders of Louisiana Good Roads Association (Transportation was added later to the name). During this time he was responsible for sending out invoices to members for their dues, kept recorded minutes of the meetings, arranged for the Goals and Objectives monthly meetings as well as the Annual Meeting.