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IT'S ONLY GOING TO GET MORE EXPENSIVE IF THEY WAIT

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ADOT wants \$25.6 million in FY19 to help address crumbling highways throughout the state. During the 2017 legislative session, funds for highways became a battle cry for lawmakers after Ducey didn't include any money for roads in his proposed budget. But the requested amount is only a fraction of what the department estimates it needs to repair cracks, seal roadways and smooth out rough patches. It would cost more than \$128 million to complete all of those projects, which ADOT recognized wasn't doable because of the lack of state dollars and the difficulty of administering all the money at one time. If money isn't spent now to address road issues, roads will deteriorate faster and negatively affect travel for both business and pleasure, the department wrote in its request. And if the state doesn't pony up more money for roads, the department won't be able to preserve and extend the life expectancy of its highway system. "These essential duties, if not properly funded, will result in more rapid deterioration of our pavement leading to more expensive reconstruction in the long run and more expense to the taxpayer," the department wrote.

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