

Road Ruts--Get Used to Them

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Although not as bad as after last winter, High Country roads need attention—and state money—with ruts and potholes on highways and secondary roads. But with North Carolina's \$2.7 billion dollar budget deficit, infrastructure needs will probably be delayed. Caught between the needs and the lack of money, State Senate President Phil Berger said delaying infrastructure needs hurts everyone. "The more you put that off the more it's going to cost you down the road," said Berger. "At this point, the unfortunate reality is that we're just faced with a very severe shortfall as far as the amount of dollars that are available and we're going to do the best that we can to address repair and renovation, to address some infrastructure needs." Berger said the legislature will prioritize the spending based on what the needs of the state are. Still he said some of the things that he would like to see done will be put off.