

## 7.2 Road Conditions

### The Importance

Transportation of people and goods is an essential piece of any economy. Roads are our nation's largest and most versatile pathways for the movement of people and goods. Poor roads decrease safety, cause vehicle damage, and delay the smooth flow of traffic. Proper monitoring and preventive maintenance of the road system minimizes disruptions in the flow of people and goods.

### About this Indicator

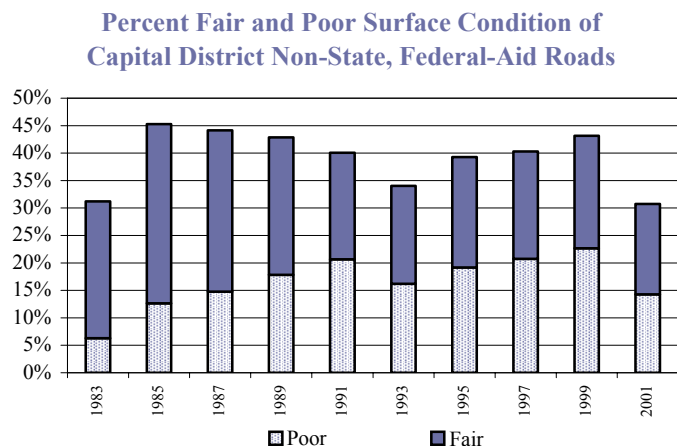
The Capital District Transportation Committee biennially assesses the condition of the Non-State Federal-Aid Roads in the Region. The State Department of Transportation also conducts the same assessment of the State Highway System. Both agencies use a scale of 1 to 10 to score the road conditions. A score of 1-5 indicates that the road segment is in poor condition. A score of 6 shows a road to be in fair condition and a score of 7 or 8 shows a road to be in good condition. Excellent condition rates a score of 9 or 10. A score of five indicates that riding quality is noticeably inferior to new pavements, showing occasional signs of distress. A score of seven shows a road to have a good ride while showing infrequent to occasional signs of deterioration.

### Sources for this Indicator

- The Capital District Transportation Committee
- New York State Department of Transportation.

### Road Conditions in the Capital District

The Capital District Transportation Committee surveys and scores over 1350 lane-miles of Non-State Federal-Aid roadway every two years. The percentage of that roadway determined to be in fair or poor condition is displayed in the chart to the right. While there was a noticeable increase in the percentage of poor roadway between 1983 and 1999, the percentage dropped below the 1987 level in 2001. The percentage of fair roadway declined during the 1980's and has held steady since.



## 7.2 TRANSPORTATION

Over the same period that the Non-State roads showed increases in the percentage of roads in poor condition, the Capital District State Highway System had significant declines in that percentage. The percentage of the State Highway System in the Capital District in poor condition declined from over 20% in 1987 to less than 10% in 2001.

While the percentage of the roads in poor condition has fluctuated over the years, the average road conditions in the Capital District have remained very consistent. Both the State Highway System and the Non-State Federal-Aid Roads have remained at an average of approximately seven, on the low end of “good,” for the past 18 years.

