



# New York State Exposed: What's being done about the worsening condition of the Lake Ontario State Parkway?

Mon, 3 Aug 2015 20:32:34 EDT



It's part of the seaway trail and national scenic byway but there's nothing scenic about a stretch of the Lake Ontario State Parkway in Orleans County where residents say the conditions have made parts of the road undrivable.

The state refers to the ten mile drive from Kendall to Carlton on the Lake Ontario State Parkway as "rough road." Beverly Daubney has a different description.

Beverly Daubney calls it, "Horrendous. Worse than horrendous."

Daubney lives in Kendall and uses the parkway during her regular commutes into the City of Rochester.

"I have tried to ride on the shoulder, along with other people, and about a month and a half ago, I ended up with two flat tires in a little over a week and a half," says Daubney.

Some motorists have simply taken to avoiding the parkway, using other roads.

"Instead of putting up signs 'rough road,' and doing patches, they need to actually do something to make it viable," says Kendall Town Supervisor Tony Cammarata.

Cammarata says the poor road conditions are giving people a bad impression of his town.

"I mean, we're all bona fide taxpayers, and we expect our roads to be just like any other parkway in the state of New York," says Cammarata.

The New York State Department of Transportation has a budget of just under \$10 billion, so isn't there some money there to resurface the parkway? We took that question to our regional state DOT office where we were told it's a matter of priorities.

"Really when it comes down to it, and comparing it to other needs in the seven counties, unfortunately it's just not competing well," says DOT spokesperson Lori Maher.

Maher says only about 1,000 cars use the parkway on a daily basis -- down about 20 percent from a decade ago.

Brett Davidsen: "Do you think it's declining because of the condition?"

Lori Maher: "Could be. People could be finding alternate routes."

Maher says they'll continue to do routine maintenance with pothole patching, but says

there is nothing in their capital plan for this section of the parkway.

Davidsen: "They pay taxes too, don't they deserve good roads?"

Maher: "Oh absolutely. Our goal is to keep the road open and passable and in a state of good condition."

Assemblyman Stephen Hawley says he routinely hears from constituents who live along the state parkway.

"If I lived up there and had to travel on those deplorable conditions, I'd feel exactly the same way," says Hawley.

But he says don't blame the state DOT, it's doing what it can with the money it's been given. Instead, he says it's the governor and state legislature -- which he is a part of -- that need to better fund upstate infrastructure.

Brett Dauidsen: "So are you saying this is an issue of misplaced priorities by the state?"

Stephen Hawley: "I think it's a continuing saga of putting money where the vast majority of people live, which is New York City."

Daubney says, like the parkway, she feels neglected as a taxpayer. "This is a beautiful road and it's going to pot."

If you want to let the state DOT know how you feel about the parkway, you can contact them [online](#) .