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Bridge repair is a sound investment: editorial

State and local government officials suddenly are talking bridge repair. Perhaps that isn't the most exciting topic — but it should be, to anyone who is interested in public safety and the prosperity of the state.

Gov. John Kasich announced last week that the Ohio Department of Transportation will spend \$120 million over the next three years to make a dent in the backlog of bridge repairs statewide.

That was only days after Columbus City Council approved a \$2 million contract with Complete General Construction Co. to fix 59 bridges in the city. Many of the repairs are minor, but they could head off major problems.

Across the state, about 5,700 of the 44,000 bridges have been found to be either structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. The money just hasn't been there in recent years to commit to fixing them. The bridges' integrity is a matter of continued economic prosperity. People and goods need to get around.

But most important, it's a matter of safety. Residents ought to be able to go about their daily lives, taking for granted that the infrastructure is sound.

Editorial continued here: <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/editorials/2013/11/08/bridge-repair-is-a-sound-investment.html>

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