

CAA: EMPRESS STREET TOPS 2018 WORST ROADS LIST

Winnipeg City Councillor Scott Gillingham accepts campaign results on City's behalf

WINNIPEG, April 26, 2018 – Manitobans have voted and they've said it loud and clear: Empress Street in Winnipeg is the worst road in the province. Over 6,000 votes were cast for nearly 700 roads around the province, demonstrating that while our roads have seen progress in recent years, there's still much more work to be done.

"It's no surprise that Empress St. took the top dishonour in our campaign – it's been a popular vote for many years thanks to the fact it's falling apart at the seams," said Liz Kulyk, corporate manager of government and community relations at CAA Manitoba. "We're pleased Empress is scheduled for reconstruction with a new bike lane addition this year, but the reality is, that Winnipeggers should not have had to wait this long to get a fix."

Voters identified potholes and crumbling pavement as the biggest road bothers, but it didn't just draw the ire of drivers – hundreds of cyclists also cited it as their top concern, followed by a lack of cycling infrastructure. Meanwhile, pedestrians named no walking infrastructure and poor walking infrastructure as their top two bones of contention over the campaign.

Provincial Road 450 in Boissevain Manitoba claimed the second worst spot across the province. Like Empress in Winnipeg, PR 450 has been on Worst Roads' radar for several years and the recent scale back on funding for provincial roads means highways like PR 450 may have to keep waiting to be repaired. Provincial road 353 in Brookdale made the list again this year, while six other Winnipeg routes, Sherwin Road, Archibald Street, Saskatchewan Avenue, Fermor Avenue and Higgins Avenue, rounded out the rankings.

Empress Street is in Winnipeg City Councillor Scott Gillingham's St. James-Brooklands-Weston ward.

"For too long, streets in my ward have topped CAA's annual Worst Roads list. It has been my goal to get those streets rebuilt and off the list," said Councillor Gillingham. "As the St. James city councillor, I appreciate hearing from CAA. Since 2014, \$75 million has been dedicated to road renewal in St. James and I am pleased that \$14 million will be invested to rebuild Empress Street."

Results will be shared with Mayor Brian Bowman and the City of Winnipeg, as well as the Manitoba Government's Minister of Infrastructure.

For more information, please contact:
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Final Worst Roads 2018 rankings

Rank	Road	Location
1	Empress St.	Winnipeg
2	Provincial Road 450	Boissevain
3	Sherwin Rd.	Winnipeg
4	Archibald St.	Winnipeg
5	Saskatchewan Ave.	Winnipeg
6	Provincial Road 247	La Salle
7	Higgins Ave	Winnipeg
8	Fermor Ave.	Winnipeg
9	Provincial Road 353	Brookdale
10	Pembina Hwy.	Winnipeg

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