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90% Of Roadways In "urgent Need Of Repair"

by Carlos Navarro
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According to "trucking industry sources" cited by El Financiero International (10/19/92), 90% of the country's 46,700 km. road network is in urgent need of repair. Roughly 55% of the roads are over 20 years old, and another 30 to 40% were built between 40 and 50 years ago. Trucking companies are unhappy with a recent decision by the Transportation and Communications Secretariat (SCT) to prohibit heavy cargo vehicles from using public highways, thereby forcing them onto new toll roads. The SCT is spending over US$4 billion on upgrading roads this year. According to the Mexican Transportation Institute, private investment in toll roads is estimated at about US$16 billion. Private sector companies plan to construct 4,830 km. of highway by 1994. Grupo ICA, which recently commenced building the US$1 billion Mexico-Guadalajara highway, obtained half the necessary financing from foreign investors. (Source: El Financiero International, 10/19/92)

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