

### OPERATING COSTS

Experts are still figuring out the operating costs of an automobile with reference to differing types of roads. The Iowa State College and Highway Research Council determines that a two-ton car traveling 100 miles over gravel or macadam costs more than \$4.50 in gas and tire wear. Over concrete the cost is about 2 cents a mile, a net saving of more than 50% in favor of that surface. The National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, in *Operation and Maintenance*, says that it costs 18.27 cents per mile to operate the average passenger car, according to a study made by the Iowa College department. Eleven typical cars ranging in price from \$400 to \$1,800 were used in demonstration. This cost is made up of gasoline, 1.61; oil, .31; tires, .98; maintenance, 1.24; depreciation 3.16; interest, 1.25; insurance, .31; garage, .83; license, .59—all in cents per mile. Of these cars a light four touring with a cost per mile of 7.05 was the lowest, while a six-cylinder coach was the highest, with 11.73 cents.

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### OPERATION

Gas 1.61  
Oil .31  
Tires .98  
Maint'ce 1.24 4.14

### MAINTENANCE

Depre'tn 3.16  
Int'rst 1.25  
Ins'ce .31  
Garage .83  
License .59 6.14  
Av. Car,..... 10.28

Light Four,.... 7.05  
Six Cylinder, . 11.73

NOTE. These costs are on constant, day by day, basis. A six cyl. car collecting 11.73 per mi. occasionally is still costing the owner 11.73 per mi. while he has the car

When 12¢ per mi. is collected on long, hard trips, and nothing on innumerable little easy trips, the 12¢ does not pay for the operating and the hard wear and tear and the excessive depreciation imposed. One would have to average on all driving to come out even on 12¢ per mi.

The ABC Garage charges -  
Whipper 12¢ per mile  
Chapin 4 " " "  
Wash 6 15¢ " "

This of course is possible only on general (not occasional) average and generally on paved or good roads or city roads

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A recent news item said:

"According to engineering experts in Washington, D. C., the minimum cost at which a passenger automobile may be operated is 7 1/2 cents a mile. This amount includes gasoline, oil, tires, repairs, labor and materials."

The above estimate does not include depreciation which on most cars equal 100% in four or five years, including depreciation the cost of operating an automobile is from 10 to 30 cents per mile. The average cost is above 15 cents per mile.

The average fare on a street car is 2 1/2 cents per mile, therefore the cost of a three-mile ride to town in an automobile will average 45 cents, as against seven cents on a street car.

In the summer a car parked in the open will be injured by the weather alone more in one day than the street car fare necessary to carry the owner to and from business, to say nothing of other costs.