

State Department Federal Credit Union Topics of Interest

Should I Repair Or Replace My Current Car?

It's decision time. Do you keep your car or retire it from service?

As the median price of a new car goes higher and higher, car owners are keeping their vehicles longer than ever. Today's cars are more reliable and better equipped than their predecessors, thanks to engineering and design advances.

Kelly Blue Book and the National Auto Dealers Association's car guides can help you determine your vehicle's current value. A State Department Federal Credit Union loan officer can use pricing tools to help you determine value as well.

If you haven't maintained your vehicle, you may want to trade it in as the warranty expires. Schedule your car for a full inspection - this can help identify your vehicle's potential problem areas and how much repairs would cost.

If you are unsure that your car will last as long as you want to keep it, you may place a premium on the reliability of a new car. If you value familiarity with how your vehicle handles and drives, your car may be worth repairing and keeping.

You also need to look at whether you have the financial resources to replace your car. If you are spending more money each month in repairs for your old car than a new car payment, it may be financially reasonable to buy a new car.