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TRIP Report Identifies Mobility Investment Needs in Minnesota

The national transportation research organization TRIP released a report Thursday evaluating the current condition, use, and funding of Minnesota's highway transportation system.

This is the latest in a series of reports by TRIP focusing on states' needs for greater transportation investment. Frank Moretti, TRIP's director of research and policy, was joined Thursday at a news conference in Brooklyn Park, MN, by Sen. Jim Carlson, vice chairman of the Minnesota Senate Transportation Committee; Commissioner Dennis Berg of the Anoka County Board of Commissioners; and Joseph Strauss, executive vice president of the North Metro Mayors Association.

The report, "Future Mobility in Minnesota: Meeting the State's Need for Safe and Efficient Mobility," analyzes road and bridge conditions, traffic congestion, economic development, highway safety, and transportation funding in Minnesota. The report contains lists of needed transportation projects that can't be undertaken without additional funding.

Minnesota's roads and bridges have significant deterioration, traffic congestion is likely to increase, and the state's rural roads have a high rate of fatal collisions, according to the report. Data show that 76 percent of the state's major urban roadways are considered congested during peak travel times -- the highest share in the nation -- while 32 percent of major roads are in either poor or mediocre condition.

"Congestion and accident costs are a shameful waste of our resources," Strauss said. "Our families and businesses would be much better served if additional state and federal funds were invested to correct the problems that are so obvious."

The 39-page report is available at tinyurl.com/TRIP-MN.