

April 15, 2011

TRIP Report Highlights Ohio's Growing Infrastructure Needs

Ohio's surface transportation infrastructure is in increasingly urgent need of repair and improvement, the nonprofit transportation research organization TRIP concluded in a report released Thursday.

"Ohio must improve its system of roads, bridges, and public transit to foster economic growth, keep business in the state, and ensure the safe, reliable mobility needed to improve the quality of life," the report states. "As Ohio looks to recover from the current recession, the state will need to enhance its surface transportation system by improving the physical condition of its transportation network and enhancing the system's ability to provide efficient and reliable mobility for residents, visitors, and businesses."

TRIP found that 10% of Ohio's bridges are structurally deficient and another 14% are functionally obsolete. In addition, 9% of the state's major roads are rated in poor condition and another 17% are in mediocre shape. In 2008, 45% of Ohio's urban highways were found to be congested during peak travel times.

The report also estimates that Ohio roadways lacking certain safety features, sufficient capacity to meet travel demands, or adequate pavement conditions cost Ohio drivers about \$6.5 billion annually in terms of traffic crashes, additional vehicle operating expenses, and congestion-related delays.

Ohio needs a significant boost in funding to complete numerous projects that will improve the condition of its surface transportation infrastructure to improve road and bridge conditions, alleviate congestion, enhance safety, and support economic growth over the long haul, TRIP asserts.

"The data in the new report underscore how businesses in Ohio need well-maintained transportation systems to be successful," said Janet Kavinoky, vice president of Americans for Transportation Mobility, which partnered with TRIP to develop this report. "Improving roads, maintaining bridges, and expanding transit options will save the state's employers billions and help create thousands of new jobs."

The 31-page report, "Future Mobility in Ohio: Meeting the State's Need for Safe and Efficient Mobility," is available at bit.ly/Ohio-Report

Questions regarding this article may be directed to editor@ashtojournal.org.