Key facts about New Hampshire's surface transportation system

April 2026

Investing in New Hampshire's transportation system improves road and bridge conditions and reduces driver costs

- A total of 34% of New Hampshire's major roads are in poor or mediocre condition. Driving on deteriorated roads costs New Hampshire motorists $602 million a year – $551 per driver – in the form of additional repairs, accelerated vehicle depreciation, and increased fuel consumption and tire wear.

- A total of 8% of New Hampshire's bridges are rated in poor/structurally deficient condition, meaning there is significant deterioration to the major components of the bridge. A total of 53% of the state's bridges were built prior to 1970. Many bridges that are 50 years or older may require significant rehabilitation or replacement.

- Vehicle travel in New Hampshire dropped by 43% in April 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic (as compared to the same month the previous year), but rebounded to 1% below pre-pandemic levels by 2025. Since 2000, vehicle travel on New Hampshire's roads increased 15% and the state's population increased 15%.

- The five-year Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), which expires on September 30, 2026, will provide $1.1 billion in federal funds for highway and bridge investments in New Hampshire over five years, including a 29% increase over the previous federal surface transportation program.

- Construction cost inflation, the erosion of motor fuel taxes due to inflation, improved fuel efficiency, and the adoption of hybrid and electric vehicles threaten the state's ability to keep pace with growing transportation needs. The Federal Highway Administration's national highway construction cost index, which measures the rate of inflation in labor and materials cost, increased 52% from the beginning of 2022 through the third quarter of 2025.

Roadway improvements can reduce traffic crashes and save lives

- From 2020 through 2025, 660 people died on the state's highways, an average of 132 annual fatalities. The state's traffic fatality rate of 0.99 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles of travel is lower than the national average of 1.1.

- A total of 850 people were killed in traffic crashes in work zones in the U.S. in 2024, 19% higher than a decade ago. There were 4 work zone fatalities in New Hampshire from 2020 to 2024. Work zone safety can be improved through the use of safety countermeasures including improved work zone design, improved driver messaging, high-visibility markings and speed enforcement.

- Traffic crashes in New Hampshire imposed a total of $2.7 billion in economic costs in 2024. TRIP estimates that a lack of adequate roadway safety features, while not the primary factor, was likely a contributing factor in approximately one-third of all fatal traffic crashes, resulting in $910 million in economic costs in the state in 2024. These costs include work and household productivity losses, property damage, medical costs, rehabilitation costs, legal and court costs, congestion costs, and emergency services.

Investing in our transportation system generates jobs, fosters economic recovery and growth, and improves safety

- Investments in the surface transportation system will boost New Hampshire's economy in the short-term by creating jobs and in the long-term will enhance economic competitiveness, stimulate sustained job growth, improve access and mobility, improve traffic safety, reduce travel delays, and improve road and bridge conditions.

- Roads and highways are the backbone of our economy, allowing New Hampshire motorists to travel 13.9 billion miles annually and moving a significant portion of the $117 billion worth of commodities shipped to and from the state each year. But, conditions on the system are deteriorating, as the need for transportation improvements far outpaces the amount of state and federal funding available.

- The design, construction and maintenance of transportation infrastructure in New Hampshire supports approximately 18,000 full-time jobs across all sectors of the state economy. Approximately 320,000 full-time jobs in New Hampshire in key industries like tourism, retail sales, agriculture and manufacturing are completely dependent on the state's transportation network.

Latest data from the U.S. Census Bureau, USDOT, FHWA, BTS, ARTBA, NHTSA, and AAA compiled and analyzed by TRIP.

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1101 Connecticut Ave., NW, #450 ■ Washington, DC 20036 ■ 202.466.6706 ■ tripnet.org ■ @TRIP_Inc