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Advocates say NoCo traffic congestion costs each driver \$1,396 yearly

Reporter-Herald Staff

A national transportation research group has released a study showing Northern Colorado drivers pay nearly \$1,400 each because of road and bridge congestion in the region.

The group TRIP said in a news release on Wednesday that congestion caused by inadequate highways and bridges brings about higher vehicle operating costs, traffic crashes and congestion-related delays.

By region, however, Northern Colorado does pretty well compared to others statewide, the report stated. Only the Grand Junction area had lower congestion-related costs. Denver led the way with drivers spending \$2,162 each because of congestion.

"This report underscores that our state must act to solve Colorado's transportation challenges," said David May, president and CEO of the Fort Collins Area Chamber of Commerce, in the news release. "Residents and businesses need a reliable, efficient transportation system. Our economy depends on it, as does our basic quality of life. In addition to commuter frustration, there are real costs associated with congestion. We need to stop kicking the proverbial can down our deteriorating roads."