

CONNECTICUT POST

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Study: Invest today, save tomorrow

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Report to lawmakers calculates impact of traffic congestion on drivers, families and businesses

By Ken Dixon

HARTFORD — Nearly three quarters of major roads in the Bridgeport and Stamford region are in poor or mediocre condition, according to a new report that estimates the average extra cost to motorists is more than \$2,200 a year in repairs, tires and additional fuel consumption.

Congestion in the region is also worsening, saddling motorists with an extra 49 hours a year, sitting in backups, plus \$1,174 in lost time and wasted fuel, states the [report](#) presented Tuesday to state lawmakers.

“Our congested roads and antiquated transportation system is creating real costs for drivers, families, and businesses in Connecticut,” said state Senate Majority Leader [Bob Duff](#). “Improving our transportation network is critically important to our economic future and our quality of life,” said Duff, D-Norwalk, who often tweets about transportation incidents in Southwestern Connecticut. “The [General Assembly](#) is working to improve these conditions and this year made a once-in-a-generation investment in our transportation infrastructure. We must continue to invest at the local, state, and federal levels to make our roads safer, reduce traffic, and improve the lives of those using our roads.”

The report, prepared by TRIP, a Washington-based national transportation organization, which said that more local, state and federal investments in improved transit could alleviate road congestion, improve rail, highway and bridge conditions, increase public safety and help the state’s economic growth.

Overall, drivers in the Bridgeport-Stamford region spend more than \$700 a year in extra “vehicle operating costs” that result from lost time in traffic, extra fuel burned in backups and repairs. Crashes are also contributing factors.

About one in three state bridges are “structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.” In the Bridgeport-Stamford region, 11 percent of bridges are structurally deficient, while 41 percent are functionally obsolete.

“These conditions are only going to get worse if greater funding is not made available at the local, state and federal levels,” said [Will Wilkins](#), TRIP’s executive director, in a statement Tuesday. “Without additional transportation funding Connecticut’s transportation system will become increasingly deteriorated and congested, the state will miss out on opportunities for economic growth and quality of life will suffer.”

Statewide, 1,274 people died in traffic crashes between 2009 and 2013, for a fatality rate of 0.89 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled. The national fatality average is higher at 1.09 fatalities per 100 million miles.

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TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

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Breakdown: Extra costs per motorist

Location	vehicle operating costs	congestion	safety	total
Bridgeport/Stamford	\$701	\$1,174	\$347	\$2,222
New Haven	\$707	\$932	\$411	\$2,050
Connecticut	\$1.6B	\$2.3B	\$1.2B	\$5.1B

ORIGINAL Slinky Jr.

Walking spring toy!

'TROUBLE IN TOYLAND' Report targets dangerous toys

By Amanda Chubb

While made with materials of potentially toxic chemicals, Slinky Jr., which has an average of 100 lead pellets in its body, is a toy that can cause serious damage to children.

SLAYINGS OF JEFFREY AND JEANETTE NAVIN

No holiday reunion for accused killers

Evidence against son, girlfriend called 'voluminous'

By David Taylor

JEFFERSON — Rita Navin and her girlfriend Jennifer Vallone were the second time since they were arrested for murdering their 16-year-old son — but there was no reunion, a long-awaited Christmas dinner or any other holiday celebration.

REGIME CHANGE AT CITY HALL

Ganim inauguration trumps Christmas tree

30-foot artificial spines up, comes down day later to clear space for seating

By Alex Garcia

JEFFERSON — Christmas trees in the city hall were taken down on Tuesday to make room for the inauguration of Governor Dannel Malloy.

Man, so he looked over the scene. "It's like walking through a minefield."

Malloy's lawyer, Erik A. Marston, says the results to date are much of the state case as he has before seeking to have his client's 18th birthday.

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Source: Washington-based national transportation organization TRIP