

Connecticut stretches of interstate highway among most congested, deteriorated in US



By [Samantha Schoenfeld](#)

HARTFORD—Everyone has a number-one hated road. “I can’t stand I-95 in Stamford!” or “The New Haven interchange is a nightmare!” are current refrains heard in Connecticut.

Now, there’s proof that it’s not just you.

As the U.S. Interstate [Highway](#) System marks its 60th anniversary this week, TRIP, a national transportation research group, released data on states with the worst highways, and Connecticut came in among the top.

The report ranked Connecticut’s urban interstate areas as having the third-highest rate of

vehicles per mile in each lane, with 15,391 vehicles traveling each mile of each lane of interstate each day. Connecticut interstates are also the eighth-most congested, with 60 percent of our urban interstates congested during peak hours on any given day.

Another standout observation was that 7 percent of interstate bridges are structurally deficient, which is the fight-highest in the nation, and 19 percent are functionally obsolete.

	State	Percent Urban Interstates Congested	State	Urban Interstate Daily Travel Per Lane Mile	State	Interstate Bridges Structurally Deficient
1	California	85%	California	19,424	Rhode Island	15%
2	Maryland	75%	Maryland	18,425	West Virginia	9%
3	New Jersey	73%	Connecticut	15,391	Wyoming	9%
4	Rhode Island	63%	Rhode Island	15,281	New York	8%
5	Delaware	63%	Florida	15,088	Connecticut	7%
6	Massachusetts	62%	Virginia	14,714	Michigan	7%
7	Hawaii	60%	Hawaii	14,616	Illinois	7%
8	Connecticut	60%	Kentucky	14,538	Colorado	6%
9	Florida	59%	New Jersey	14,498	Massachusetts	6%
10	Minnesota	56%	Massachusetts	14,496	Maine	5%

Credit: TRIP

Also, 14 percent of Connecticut interstate pavements are in poor or mediocre condition, compared to the national rate of 12 percent.

The Interstate Highway System accounts for just 2.5 percent of lane miles of road in the U.S., but carries 25 percent of all vehicle travel in the country, creating congestion and deteriorating roads at a quicker rate than we can repair them. Truck travel is especially responsible for the issues, as is the increasing number of vehicles on the road in general—the report says that since 2000, travel on the IHS is increasing two times faster than lane capacity is being added.

The current backlog of repairs needed on the IHS is estimated by the U.S. Department of Transportation to be \$189 billion, but our investment is just 61 percent of what is needed to keep highways running in good condition.

The Interstate Highway System was created in the 1950s to promote interstate commerce and provide evacuation routes for natural emergencies, but “neither of these functions are now served by our present system,” said Jack Conklin, president and CEO of the Stamford Chamber of Commerce. “Connecticut and the northeast are the poster child for congestion. Federal funding is the life blood that is needed to solve the Interstate system challenges. The time to act is now.”