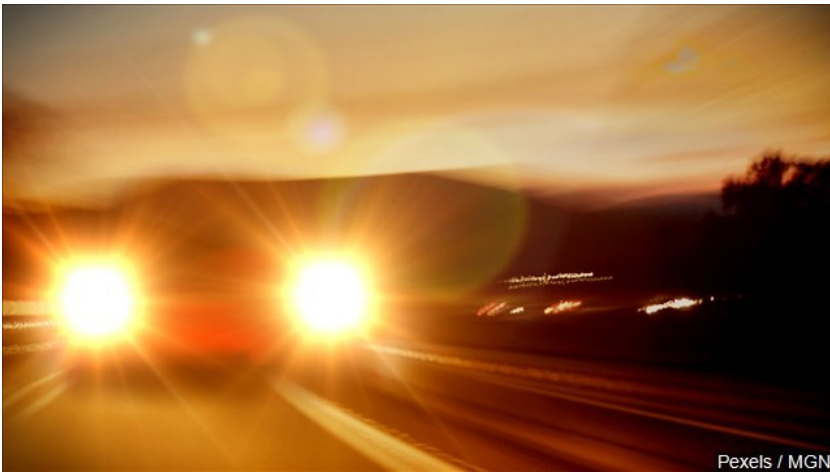


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Interstate Highway System celebrates 60 years

By Nessa Wright



BUTTE - It's been called the greatest public works project in the nation and the most ambitious since building of the Roman Empire. The Interstate Highway System celebrates 60 years of helping drivers get to where they need to be.

More than 47,000 miles of roadway stretch across the United States connecting people to their destinations. For truck drivers the interstate is a vital necessity. "Oh it's very important because some roads that are not an

interstate are very dangerous and we're taking a risk every time we're off of an interstate," said trucker Terrell Pressley at a truck stop in Rocker.

According to a report released by the national transportation organization TRIP, Montana ranks 7th nationwide for the greatest increase in miles traveled on its' two interstates. The report claims the increase is due in part to more big trucks driving through the state. Some say that is the result of a growing economy. "Economics has a lot to do with it. Montana's probably producing a lot more, receiving a lot more. Population might be increasing in general," said Phil, a trucker from Florida.

While more people may be traveling on Montana interstates, more people are also dying on its' interstates. Montana came in third place for having the highest number of interstate fatalities within the United States. When you see big rigs on the interstate, truckers ask folks to drive smart. "People should really educate themselves because this is literally, you know, a death trap. I mean there is no surviving it," said Phil.

The TRIP report says interstate travel saves lives, time and money but the system faces challenges with increased congestion and underfunding. See the full TRIP report [here](#).