

Report: Bad roads cost South Coast drivers \$1,600 a year

By Darren Soens



Route 9 construction project in Fall River

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. (WPRI) — A report released Tuesday claims deficient roads and bridges in the South Coast region of Massachusetts are costing each driver more than \$1,600 each year.

The study by the non-profit group [TRIP](#) found that about one-fifth of major roads and highways in Massachusetts are in poor condition and more than half of the state's bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.

According to the TRIP report "[Massachusetts Transportation by the Numbers](#)," two percent of major roads in the greater New Bedford area were rated in poor condition, and another 86 percent are in mediocre condition.

The report estimates that driving on deficient roads costs the average South Coast driver \$429 annually in extra vehicle operating costs, plus another \$425 a year in lost time and fuel from traffic congestion, and \$754 annually in traffic crash costs, totaling \$1,608 a year.

TRIP estimates that bad roads cost Massachusetts motorists a total of \$8.3 billion each year, statewide.

- [Click here to read the full TRIP report: "Massachusetts Transportation by the Numbers"](#)