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Report evaluates cost of insufficient roads



CHARLESTON — Roads and bridges that are deficient, congested or lack desirable safety features cost West Virginia motorists a total of \$1.4 billion statewide annually, or \$1,439 per driver in the Morgantown area.

A new report released Feb. 16 by TRIP, a Washington, D.C.-based national transportation organization, evaluates the cost of insufficient roads for drivers in the Charleston, Huntington, Morgantown, Parkersburg and Wheeling urban areas, as well as statewide.

The TRIP report found that, throughout West Virginia, 29 percent of major roads are in poor condition. In the Morgantown area, 68 percent of major roads are in poor or mediocre condition — costing the average motorist an additional \$815 each year in extra vehicle operating costs, including accelerated vehicle depreciation, additional repair costs and increased fuel consumption and tire wear.

And traffic congestion in the Morgantown area is worsening, according to the report — causing 14 annual hours of delay for the average motorist and costing each driver \$311 annually in lost time and wasted fuel.