

Asheville area drivers spend nearly a day in traffic per year, study says

by Darren Botelho | Thursday, May 11th 2017



ASHEVILLE, N.C. (WLOS) —

Asheville area drivers may be wasting dozens of hours sitting in the cars and millions of dollars on fuel.

A Washington D.C.-based transportation group put out a new study showing the costs.

"Travel on North Carolina's roads and highways is growing at one of the

fastest rates in the country," Rocky Moretti, who works for a national transportation group called TRIP, said. "The state acknowledges that while spending \$1.3 billion to maintain that system it should be spending at least \$1.6 billion to keep from things getting worse."

Asheville reflects the state pattern—lots of growth and not enough money from the state, adversely affecting local drivers.

According to the study, on average, Asheville area drivers spend more than a day per year in traffic and could fill up about 500 Olympic size swimming pools with all the fuel wasted sitting in traffic.

"It's 26 hours that could've been spent on something more important," Paul Lenakos, a driver, said.

According to the study, the state needs about \$60 billion for transportation improvements from 2018-27 but only has about \$10 billion available.