Here’s how much time Charlotte drivers waste in traffic. (It’s worse than we thought.)

By Adam Bell
abell@charlotteobserver.com

A new study has an answer for all those drivers who think the Charlotte area’s traffic and road conditions are the absolute worst in the state: You’re right. The 27-page report released Thursday by TRIP, a nonprofit transportation research group based in Washington, D.C., highlighted transportation troubles in the region and statewide and pushed for more funding to help fix those problems.

For instance, no drivers in the state waste more time in traffic than the ones in the Charlotte area, who lose 40 hours a year due to congestion. That adds up to a collective 13.8 million gallons of fuel wasted a year, the report stated. With some local gas stations charging $2.19 a gallon now, it’s the equivalent of wasting more than $30 million a year.

40 Annual hours lost due to congestion in the Charlotte area
31 Annual hours lost in Raleigh-Durham
26 Annual hours lost in the Asheville area
25 Annual hours lost in The Triad
20 Annual hours lost in the Wilmington area

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TRIP study co-author Carolyn Bonifas Kelly
Adam Bell - abell@charlotteobserver.com

Other highlights in the report include:
• 4 percent of the bridges in the Charlotte area are structurally deficient, which is actually the lowest rate among the state’s regions.
• From 2013 to 2015, the Charlotte area averaged 68 traffic fatalities a year. The Triad had the highest average, with 138 a year.
• Vehicle miles traveled in North Carolina increased by 29 percent from 2000 to last year, the ninth highest rate in the nation.
• Every $1 of deferred maintenance on roads and bridges costs an additional $4 to $5 in needed future repairs.
• And while N.C. DOT is spending $1.3 billion annually on road, highway and bridge repairs, it should be spending $1.6 billion to $1.9 billion on that work.
Adam Bell: 704-358-5696, @abell