

How the Triad's poor roads and bridges are impacting the region



Katie Arcieri Reporter *Triad Business Journal*

Forty-one percent of roads in the Triad are in poor or mediocre condition [while 11 percent of local bridges are structurally deficient](#), according to a new report from TRIP, a Washington D.C. based national transportation organization.

The report, "Keeping North Carolina Mobile: Progress and Challenges in Providing an Efficient, Safe and Well-Maintained Transportation System," was released this morning at the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce office in Winston-Salem. It examines road and bridge conditions, travel trends, economic development, highway safety and transportation funding across the state.



Business 40 will shut down starting in 2018 for a \$100 million reconstruction project.

Among the report's local findings:

- Of the Triad's 1,768 bridges, 198 are deficient.
- There are an average of 138 fatalities annually in the Triad.
- Triad drivers [lose 25 hours each year due to congestion](#).
- Triad drivers lose a total of 5.9 million gallons of gas annually.

The report notes that increasing levels of congestion add significant costs to consumers, transportation companies, manufacturers, distributors and wholesalers and "can reduce the attractiveness of a location to a company to consider expansion or even to locate a new facility."

[Gayle Anderson](#), president and CEO of the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce, said that transportation is the organization's "No.1 legislative priority, adding that the completion of the Northern Beltway urban loop and the [\\$100 million reconstruction of Business 40 that begins next year](#) are the two most important projects for the region.

"The dollars invested in improving our transportation infrastructure multiply many times, creating jobs, adding to our tax base, stimulating business development, and improving our quality of life," she said. "While we have made progress, we have much more work to do to ensure a modern, efficient transportation system that will serve us now and in the future."

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