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## Report: Wilmington roads in rough shape

Nearly half of Port City's roads in poor or mediocre condition.

By Tim Buckland, StarNews Staff



A new report says Wilmington drivers lose 20 hours annually due to traffic delays and congestion – with much of that time lost on South College Road, the city's busiest roadway. (Kenneth Freyer/For the StarNews)



A new report says pavement conditions were poor on 18 percent of Wilmington's roads and mediocre on 26 percent. (STARNEWS FILE PHOTO)



Heavy traffic flows down Market Street in Wilmington last month. A report from a Washington-based transportation research group found that nearly half of Wilmington's roads are in poor or mediocre condition. (STARNEWS FILE PHOTO)

WILMINGTON -- Nearly half of Wilmington's roads are in poor or mediocre condition, according to a [report](#) from the National Transportation Research Group.

The report, released this week, found that pavement conditions were poor on 18 percent of Wilmington's roads and mediocre on 26 percent. Of urban areas in North Carolina surveyed by the Washington-based research group, only Charlotte had more roads in poor or mediocre condition -- at 20 percent and 29 percent, respectively.

The report also found that 6 percent of Wilmington's bridges were structurally deficient, that Port City drivers lose 20 hours annually because of traffic delays and congestion, and the Wilmington drivers waste about 1.9 million gallons of fuel because of congestion.

It recommends that the N.C. Department of Transportation and cities increase funding to address failing roads and bridges.

"As one of the fastest growing regions in the state, Wilmington and the greater Cape Fear area use all parts of the transportation network," Natalie English, president and CEO of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, said in a statement. "While gains have been made to fund this important function of the economy, North Carolina's leaders must continue to make additional investments to keep our state competitive, not only with surrounding states but also in the global marketplace. Investing in the state's transportation system is crucial, as it yields a significant return on investments through providing a long-term asset."

### Potholed Port City roads

- 44 percent of Wilmington's roads are in poor or mediocre condition
- 6 percent of Wilmington's bridges are structurally deficient
- 20 hours lost annually because of traffic delays
- 1.9 million gallons of fuel wasted because of congestion

Source: National Transportation Research Group

Reporter Tim Buckland can be reached at 910-343-2217 or [Tim.Buckland@StarNewsOnline.com](mailto:Tim.Buckland@StarNewsOnline.com).