

Research group: Las Vegas Valley drivers losing money on deficient roadways

by Kyndell Nunley

Tuesday, October 25th 2016



The average driver in the Las Vegas region loses more than \$1,700 annually as a result of driving on roads that are deteriorated, congested, and that lack some desirable safety features, according to a new report from TRIP, a national transportation research group. (KSNV)

LAS VEGAS (KSNV News3LV) — People living in the Las Vegas area could be losing about \$1,700 a year and not even know it. The findings are from a new report just released by national transportation research group **TRIP**.

In the new report, TRIP pinpoints congested or deteriorated roads and lack of safety features as the reason for financial loss to locals.

TRIP says overall Nevada drivers are spending a portion of \$3.2 billion annually on car maintenance caused by damage obtained from the low quality of local roadways. Broken down, the report goes on to set driving safety conditions and traffic as the main reasons for financial loss.

It's important to note that most drivers aren't spending nearly \$2,000 a year on car repairs, though. To back the findings up TRIP says the largest portion of that cost (about \$1,000) is calculated from the amount of time they've found local drivers are spending waiting in traffic every year.

The report states that the average amount of time local drivers spend sitting in traffic is about 46 hours a year, and have used that number to calculate a financial loss.

“In the Las Vegas area more than a third of the roads are in poor or mediocre condition. So one out of every three miles that you drive on is beat up and is giving your car a rough ride and tossing about. That is what contributes to that higher vehicle operating cost,” said Carolyn Kelly, associate director of research/communication with TRIP.

Kelly says TRIP pulled the road condition statistics from the categorizations the **Nevada Department of Transportation** turned over to the **Federal Highway Administration** on the general smoothness of the pavement.

Another eyebrow-raiser from the report is the number of deadly crashes in Nevada. It states Nevada's overall traffic fatality rate of 1.15 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles of travel in 2014 is higher than the national average of 1.08.

The fatality rate on Nevada's non-interstate rural roads in 2014 was nearly two and a half times higher than on all other roads in the state (2.35 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles of travel vs. 0.99).