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# Report: Crumbling NY infrastructure costing drivers billions

*WNYT Staff*

A new report released Thursday finds New York roads and bridges are in rough shape.

That's costing drivers billions of dollars, every year, and the cost keeps going up as the infrastructure deteriorates.

Heavy traffic, potholes and poor roads and bridges and car crashes are what the report says is costing New York drivers billions of dollars a year. The author of the report says it would be more cost effective to fix the infrastructure and put that money back into your pocket.

It's usually a bumpy ride going to work for Sal Pugliese -- especially in the spring when the ground begins to thaw -- and the roads are like a checkerboard with potholes.

"Pretty much every day on my commute to work I have to sidestep two to three that are pretty sizable," Pugliese admitted.

Driving over some bridges isn't much better either.

"There are a few that I go over that I see some huge rust patches and I'm like, they should probably do something about this," Pugliese continued.

A new report from "TRIP", a transportation research group out of Washington, DC, is pushing the state to do something about it.

The report released at AAA on Thursday, says New York motorists like Pugliese are spending billions of dollars a year because of infrastructure.

"Because they're driving on roads that are congested, that are deteriorated and that may not be as safe as they could be," pointed out Carolyn Bonifas Kelly, with TRIP.

The group says a large percentage of New York roads are in poor condition and many bridges are deficient and functionally obsolete -- contributing to more repair costs. Drivers also spend additional money for heavy traffic and car crashes, according to the report. It's about \$2,000 on average for Capital Region drivers.

"Without additional funding at the local, state and federal levels, Albany and New York State's roads will become increasingly deteriorated, congested and you may see a rise in the fatality rate," Boinfas Kelly warned.

Governor Andrew Cuomo is proposing more than \$20 billion for upstate roads and bridges in this year's budget. The group says that's not nearly enough to get the job done.

TRIP says just because a bridge is labeled deficient or obsolete, doesn't mean you cannot drive on them. It just means they're in dire need of repair or replacement.