

New report says road, driving conditions cost Buffalo drivers \$1,900 per year

By [Evan Anstey, News 4 Digital Producer](#)

January 21, 2016



BUFFALO, N.Y. (WIVB) — A new report from national transportation research group, TRIP, say that deficient, congested roadways are costing drivers in the region almost \$1,900 a year and that additional funding is necessary.

Overall, the cost of the conditions adds up to \$24.9 billion for the whole state. This is all due to vehicle operating costs, traffic crashes and congested roadways, according to the report.

“Today’s TRIP report highlights the poor conditions that New Yorkers across the state

face on our roads and bridges every day,” said John Corlett, Legislative Committee chairman at AAA New York State. “In 2015 alone, AAA serviced more than 200,000 flat tire calls throughout New York – many of which were due to potholes and other hazardous road conditions. This is a symptom of the lack of adequate investment in roads. I look forward to working with the Governor and State Legislature to fully fund the needs of our road and bridge system, which will enhance safety and help improve the quality of life for the millions of drivers who travel on our roads and bridges every day.”

In the Buffalo area, delays are costing drivers an average of 40 hours of their time. In the more urban areas of the region, nine percent of bridges are said to be structurally deficient and 27 percent are “functionally obsolete.”

“These conditions are only going to get worse if greater funding is not made available at the local, state and federal levels,” said Will Wilkins, TRIP’s executive director.

Between 2009 and 2013, federal programs provided \$1.45 “for every dollar the state paid in federal motor fuel fees” to improve roads in New York. The Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act was signed into law in 2015 to help provide increases to federal funding and also grants states greater long-term certainty for funding.

Still, the report says the FAST Act is not enough.

Wilkins says “Without additional transportation funding, New York’s transportation system will become increasingly deteriorated and congested, the state will miss out on opportunities for economic growth and quality of life will suffer.”