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## Study states Myrtle Beach drivers lose nearly \$1,800 a year on rough roads



By Christel Bell, Anchor

MYRTLE BEACH, SC (WMBF) - A new study said on average Myrtle Beach motorists spend nearly \$1,800 each year as result of driving on bad roads in South Carolina.

That report was released Tuesday by TRIP, a national transportation research group. It stated nearly 60 percent of the roads locals drive on every day are in poor or mediocre condition.

Myrtle Beach has the second-highest cost for drivers due to deteriorating roads, according to the report.

TRIP representatives released the study to members of the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce. The group collected data from the past two years that looks at the state's complete infrastructure and the future economic impact.

"Our report finds that South Carolina's transportation system is increasingly deteriorated, congested and not as safe as it could be," said Carolyn Bonifas Kelly, associate director of research and communication for TRIP.

The question now is how much does it cost to drive on bad roads?

According to the report, on average, Myrtle Beach drivers spend at least \$527 in additional maintenance costs. In Florence, traffic accidents waste an average of nearly \$600. Several of them are caused because many of the roadways lack some safety features.

Backed-up traffic leaves drivers sitting on U.S. 501 nearly 30 delayed hours a year, and costs motorists \$754 dollars in wasted fuel.

"The drivers lose nearly \$1,800 each year in the form of these additional transportation costs," Kelly said.

According to the study, 23 percent of the roads in Myrtle Beach are poor and nearly 10 percent of bridges motorists drive across have significant deterioration.

Organization officials said their report is also being presented to state lawmakers.

"In states where those conversations are ongoing, they get all the information they need through a TRIP report to make the best decision that they can," Kelly said.

Brad Dean, president and CEO of the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, said the TRIP report confirms that deteriorating roads have led to a "significant cost burden" for area residents.

"For too long, South Carolina politicians have failed to make our roads a priority and now we know just how much that is costing taxpayers," Dean said. "This study, which reveals that Myrtle Beach residents are experiencing some of the highest vehicle operating costs in our state, clearly demonstrates the need for our elected leaders to do the right thing and take action now."

TRIP's full report can be read below: [South Carolina Transportation by the Numbers Report](#)