

## Report: Poor driving conditions cost Bakersfield drivers about \$2K every year

by BakersfieldNow Staff



FILE - Traffic is seen in Bakersfield, Calif., in a KBAK/KBFX photo.

Bakersfield drivers are losing close to \$2,000 per year driving on roads that are congested and lack some safety features, according to a Washington, D.C.-based national transportation research group.

The group, [TRIP](#), reports the poor road conditions leave drivers with higher vehicle operating costs, traffic collisions and congestion-related delays.

"Driving on deficient roads comes with a \$1,778 yearly price tag for Bakersfield motorists - \$61 billion statewide," Will Wilkins, TRIP's executive director, said in a news release.

Time and money is a traffic problem that continues to worsen in the Bakersfield area, according to TRIP. The research group reports the average driver is delayed 19 hours each year, which costs \$531 in time and fuel. Throughout the state, drivers are losing \$29.1 billion each year.

The issue of road safety in the Bakersfield area is also a matter of life and death, according to TRIP. An average of 131 people were killed in traffic crashes in Bakersfield each year from 2014 to 2016.

TRIP concluded further investment in California's roadways would not only save lives but also save money for the residents and visitors at large.

"Adequate funding for the state's transportation system would allow for smoother roads, more efficient mobility, enhanced safety, and economic growth opportunities while saving California's drivers time and money," Wilkins said.

View [TRIP's](#) full report below.