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Wednesday, August 15, 2018

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\$3,000 is what LA-area roads cost drivers each year

By City News Service | citynewsservice@scng.com | PUBLISHED: August 15, 2018



Everything from potholes to crashes and congestion is costing Los Angeles-area drivers thousands of dollars per year, according to a study from the Washington, D.C.-based TRIP.

(File photo by Jeff Gritchen, Orange County Register/SCNG)

LOS ANGELES — Driving on Los Angeles-area roads costs motorists nearly \$3,000 a year in vehicle repairs, fuel costs, the results of crashes and lost time because of traffic congestion, a transportation research organization said Wednesday.

The Washington, D.C.-based group TRIP found that throughout California more than two-thirds of major locally and state-maintained roads are in poor or mediocre condition, costing drivers more than \$900 dollars a year in the form of accelerated vehicle depreciation, repair costs, increased fuel consumption and tire wear.

A report from the group also stated that 176 of the 4,703 bridges that are 20 feet or more in length in the Los Angeles area are structurally deficient, with significant deterioration to the bridge deck, supports or other major components.

TRIP also found that drivers paid on average about \$300 for vehicle repairs from traffic crashes in which roadway features likely were a contributing factor.

Traffic congestion is worsening in the Los Angeles area, causing 82 hours of delay a year and costing drivers nearly \$1800 in lost time and wasted fuel, TRIP said.

The report stated the efficiency and condition of California's transportation system, in particular its highways, is critical to the health of the state's economy. Businesses deciding where to relocate or expand may look for states with smoother, more efficient roads and modern transportation systems, impacting the nearly \$3 trillion in goods that are shipped to and from sites in California, mostly by trucks, relying on the state's freeways and bridges, said TRIP.

"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," said Will Wilkins, TRIP's executive director.

The TRIP report, "Los Angeles Transportation by the Numbers: Meeting the Region's Need for Safe, Smooth and Efficient Mobility" is available at tripnet.org.