

Research group examines improvements, issues on Columbus roads

By: [Mikhaela Singleton](#) | June 1, 2018



COLUMBUS, Ga. - A national research group examined the ups and downs of Georgia transportation in a new report released Thursday. The report by [TRIP](#) shows while Columbus may be better off than many other regions when it comes to road projects, there is still a long way to go.

"We're one of only three regions in the state, we have so many more projects underway, because we also have our TSPLOST dollars on top of funding from the Transportation Funding Act (TFA)," explains Brian Anderson, CEO of the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce.

The [TRIP report](#) examined the impact of the average \$900 million in taxes distributed for transportation needs throughout the state since passing the TFA in 2015. Five key highway bridges across Muscogee and Chattahoochee Counties are due for improvements and are already funded to be started before or finished by 2021.

"We've got great bridges that are being replaced, because it's time, they're functionally obsolete. We've got to get those upgraded. Where's also a \$10.5 million one that's not scheduled right now, because we don't have the funding," Anderson says.

The report also shows traffic congestion is getting even more crowded in Columbus with drivers wasting around 16 hours and \$348 worth of time and fuel while idling in traffic every year. Anderson says improving congestion relief is also a concern that earns funding, for residents convenience, but also for the economic opportunities it brings.

"Every year \$800 billion worth of products goes through Georgia on trains and trucks," Anderson explains to News 3's Mikhaela Singleton. "Businesses potentially coming here or looking to expand, they look at your transportation network. If they're going to make a product that's got to make it to the ports, to the airport, or to go on trucks across the country, they need to know that the product can make it from point A to point B quickly and safely without congestion. Every time a truck idles, it costs money."

Meanwhile, Columbus residents confide in News 3 they just want to see a decrease in the average 50 traffic deaths in Columbus every year.

"I know in my neighborhood, Fairview Drive, people use that as a cut-through to access Reese Road, and there are just so many people going too fast and ignoring the speed limit," says Carol Faggard. "Perhaps maybe putting speed bumps in to minimize the speeders and protect the safety of the children and the neighborhood would be a good idea."

"My main concern is you know the roads in south Columbus, they really need a lot of maintenance on, a lot of pot holes," says Bernhard Pollard. "Pot holes, you know, they mess your car up and they can cause an accident if someone swerves to avoid them. I'd feel a lot better when they get those fixed."