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New report identifies bridges in Syracuse that are most in need of repair

by: [Robert Hackford](#)



NEW YORK STATE (WSYR-TV) — They're some of the most traveled bridges in Central New York: 690 and Townsend, the 81 interchange, and the bridge over South Bay Road

“So if you look up here, you can see underneath, you can just see the wear,” said Rocky Moretti.

And according to Moretti from the non-profit TRIP, a group sponsored by insurance and construction companies, they're also some of the bridges most in need of repairs.

“You've got so many bridges in fair condition that

are only going to wear further and further unless you have a strong local and state bridge program,” Moretti said. “And obviously, Syracuse is behind the rest of the state. which is behind the national average.”

Analyzing Federal Highway Administration data, the report found that 101 of Central New York's 875 bridges were rated either poor or structurally deficient.

“So deficiency might mean that there is a structural component that needs repairs,” said Kevin Rooney, Superintendent of Public Works, Wayne County.

But importantly, it doesn't mean a bridge is unsafe. It rates the surface, the steel structure and the supports underneath. The two worst bridges were built in the 1950 and are on the Thruway in Geddes and Salina. Each had an average score of 3.3 out of nine. Both are now under construction.

Rooney said, “We usually know when these things are starting to occur, but sometimes we don't have available funding to make these repairs.”

And that's what Moretti says is their real intention. To help show local, state and federal leaders that America's aging infrastructure needs a boost more than ever.

Across the state, 10% of bridges are rated poor or structurally deficient.

[NY Statewide Preserving New York Bridges Report September 2019](#) by [NewsChannel 9](#) on Scribd

[NY Syracuse Preserving New York Bridges Report September 2019](#) by [NewsChannel 9](#) on Scribd

In response to the report a spokesperson for the NYSDOT sent this statement:

“Safety is our top priority and the State Department of Transportation has an aggressive bridge inspection program that requires bridges to be inspected at least once every two years by licensed professional engineers. Eight of the DOT bridges cited in the report are scheduled for rehabilitation in the near future. The fact a bridge is categorized as poor condition in the report does not mean that it is unsafe. If a bridge is deemed unsafe as a result of a rigorous inspection, it will be closed to traffic.”

Curtis Jetter, Spokesperson – NYSDOT