

Poor New Orleans roads are costing drivers thousands according to new report

According to TRIP, driving on deteriorating, congested roads that lack safety features costs Louisiana drivers \$6.9 billion each year.

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NEW ORLEANS — Driving along New Orleans roads can get bumpy and your wallet might agree.

A national research group, TRIP, looked in to what this is costing drivers every year.

According to TRIP, driving on deteriorating, congested roads that lack safety features costs Louisiana drivers a total of \$6.9 billion each year and New Orleans drivers an average of \$2,159 each year.

Those numbers aren't surprising to Charlie Spahr with Kollins Services, a car repair shop in Uptown New Orleans.

"Especially for this area, definitely," Spahr said. "Bent rims, cracked rims, it's not just tires, it's a little bit of everything."

Pot holes and bad roads keep him busy.

The report claims New Orleans drivers annually spend an additional \$657 on vehicle operating costs like car repairs because of roads, an additional \$1,103 on gas because of congestion, and \$339 on lack of safety features that cause accidents.

"They're mostly unpredictable, like you'll drive down one street one day and the next day there will be a pothole or it will be flooded," said Amy Rougelot, who has had to get two tires repaired in the last two months and has had her car flood twice.

The report doesn't include water damage from street flooding, but that's something New Orleans drivers have to deal with too. Combine that with poor roads and pot hole damage and it can add up.

"We had to get new axles because of potholes and that was a couple thousand dollars," Rougelot said.

Compare New Orleans numbers in the report to the rest of the state and it's all pretty close with Baton Rouge drivers spending even more.

To report pot holes on New Orleans roads call 311. If its a state road or highway, call the Louisiana Department of Transportation.

The data in the report comes from federal officials including the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), the U.S. Census Bureau, the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

To read the full report, click [HERE](#).