

## Structurally deficient bridges outlined in report: How many on Staten Island?



staten island advance

One in 10 New York bridges are in poor/structurally deficient condition by Federal Highway Administration standards, according to a recent report. This file photo shows one of the many overpasses on Staten Island. (Staten Island Advance)

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STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- One in 10 New York bridges are in poor/structurally deficient condition by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) standards, according to a recent report.

Preserving New York's Bridges, a [new report](#) by national transportation research nonprofit TRIP, found that 1,757 of 17,521, or 10%, of locally and state-maintained bridges were rated as poor/structurally deficient by the FHWA. The report only looked at bridges over 20-feet long.

Bridges are deemed structurally deficient by the FHWA if the roadway deck, superstructure, substructure or culvert are rated in poor or worse condition (4 or lower on a scale of 0-9).

"New York's bridges are a critical component of the state's transportation system, providing connections for personal mobility, economic growth and quality of life," said Will Wilkins, TRIP's executive director.

"Without increased and reliable transportation funding, numerous projects to improve and preserve aging bridges in the Capital Region and statewide will not move forward, hampering New York's ability to efficiently and safely move people and goods," Wilkins continued.

Of the remaining bridges, 53% were rated as fair, with just 37% of New York bridges rated as good condition.

New York's 10% structural deficiency rate ranked among the highest in the nation, placing 12th out of 50 states.

According to the report, over 11 million vehicles cross over structurally deficient New York bridges each day, creating potential hazardous conditions.

On Staten Island, just three of the 158 bridges were rated as poor/structurally deficient, less than 2%.

Eighty-four Staten Island bridges rated as fair condition, totaling 53%, with 71 rated as good condition, totaling 45%.

While the exact locations of Staten Island's three structurally deficient bridges is not clear in the report, the locations are listed by the FHWA as:

- BLOOMINGDALE ROAD, .7 MI E JCT440+W SHORE EX
- RTE 909C, 1 MI E JCT SH440 & WS EXP
- WSE-WEST SERV RD, 0.5 MI S OF FRESH KILLS

Structurally deficient bridges that remain open may receive posted weight limits and often require significant maintenance and repair to remain in service, followed by eventual rehabilitation or replacement.

"Deteriorated bridges can have a significant impact on daily life. Restrictions on vehicle weight may cause many vehicles – especially emergency vehicles, commercial trucks, school buses and farm equipment – to use alternate routes to avoid weight-restricted bridges. Redirected trips also lengthen travel time, waste fuel and reduce the efficiency of the local economy," according to the report.