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Inadequate road conditions come at steep price for Valley drivers, report says



The study also considered traffic crashes, which resulted in 4,635 deaths between 2014 and 2018, TRIP's statement said. Arizona's 2018 traffic fatality rate was the nation's fourth highest at 1.53 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles of travel.

TRIP considered crashes in which roadway safety inadequacies likely contributed to the accidents and developed an average cost to Phoenix-area drivers of \$294 each.

Traffic congestion caused Valley drivers 62 hours a year in delays for a cost of \$1,089 annually per driver in lost time and wasted fuel, according to the study.

A new report says poor and mediocre conditions on Valley roads contributed to higher costs for drivers due to vehicle operating costs, safety and congestion.

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By [Jeff Gifford](#) – Digital Editor
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Problems and deficiencies on regional roads cost Valley drivers \$2,009 each in annual operating costs, vehicle accidents and congestion-related delays, a new report says.

The study by TRIP, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization that researches transportation data, determined 26% of the Phoenix area's local- and state-maintained roads are in poor condition and another 35% are in mediocre condition.

The nonprofit said those conditions contributed to higher costs for drivers, broken down by vehicle operating costs, safety and congestion.

Vehicle operating costs included accelerated depreciation, additional repair costs, higher fuel consumption and tire wear. For Valley drivers, those annual costs amounted to \$626 apiece, the study said.

Road conditions

Craig Sullivan, executive director of the County Supervisors Association of Arizona, said in the statement that Arizona's county engineers in 2018 documented degradation of county roadways and a lack of sufficient funding to do basic maintenance.

In the Phoenix area, the report rated pavement conditions on 26% of roads as poor, 35% as mediocre, 16% as fair and the remaining 23% as good.

Additionally, the report said 2% of the state's bridges of 20 feet or longer are rated poor or structurally deficient, with another 35% of bridges rated in fair condition, which is a step below good.

The report also found the fuel tax revenue that pays for transportation needs is shrinking because of increasing fuel efficiency and more electric vehicles on the road.

A recent proposal would have raised the Arizona gas tax from 18 cents to 36 cents over three years as well as add on new fees for hybrids and EVs, but it got a chilly reception from state lawmakers.

Statewide, the report calculated a total cost of \$9.6 billion for drivers each year because of roadway inadequacies.