

Report: Rochester drivers losing \$1,600 annually due to poor road conditions, congestion

by WHAM



(WHAM file photo) Researchers with TRIP say elements like poor road conditions, road congestion and the occasional absence of some safety features could be hurting drivers' wallets

Rochester, N.Y. – Traveling on rough or heavily traveled roads can be more than just a headache. One organization says it could also be impacting your wallet.

Transportation research nonprofit [TRIP](#) says the average driver in Rochester loses more than \$1,600 each year.

“The average motorist is spending an additional \$1,626 annually in the cost of driving on rough roads – which is beating up their vehicles – the cost of traffic congestion in terms of lost time and wasted fuel, the

cost of serious and fatal traffic crashes in which a lack of adequate roadway safety features are a contributing factor,” said Rocky Moretti, director of policy and research for TRIP.

Additionally, the report finds about 12% of roads in the Rochester area are in poor condition, while 19% are ranked “mediocre.” Eight percent of bridges are ranked as structurally deficient and in need of immediate repair.

Researchers say, with traffic levels returning to those of pre-pandemic life, they estimate people will spend an additional 40 hours each year stuck in traffic, and 20 gallons of gas being wasted.

Researchers also noted an average of 128 traffic fatalities annually the last five years.

“We found in the report that when cost-effective roadway safety features are completed in a region, that we see a significant improvement in overall traffic safety,” said Moretti.

During a news conference Tuesday, members of the nonprofit said New York should focus on infrastructure improvements as it looks to recover from the pandemic. This could mean the need for federal help, and researchers are calling on Congress to provide long-term aid for transportation improvements.

“Certainly, the federal government is in a critical position to look at those additional investments, and state and local governments, I think, have to recognize the importance of infrastructure,” said Moretti. “If you point to the report, it supports numerous jobs in the initial phase of making those repairs, but in the long-term, numerous jobs in New York state rest on the quality of a good transportation system.”

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