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Road conditions causing drivers in Portland to lose thousands of dollars

by WGME



Congress Street in Portland (WGME)

PORTLAND (WGME) -- A new report out of Washington D.C. shows drivers in Portland, Maine, are losing more than \$1,000 a year due to traffic and poorly maintained roads.

According to the national nonprofit [TRIP](#), of the 20 most congested corridors in Maine, 17 are in the Portland area.

Ranking number one on the list? Congress Street from I-295 to the Eastern Prom.

Throughout Maine, the TRIP report deems 44 percent of major locally and state-maintained roads in poor or mediocre condition, and those road conditions come at a cost for drivers.

The report says it costs Maine drivers a total of \$1.3 billion annually. And for drivers in the city of Portland alone, you're looking at spending \$1,392 per year due to traffic crashes, congestion related delays, and higher vehicle operating costs.

Those include accelerated vehicle depreciation, additional repair costs, and increased fuel consumption.

Tim Doyle, the vice president of the Maine Motor Transport Association, says putting off fixing the roads doesn't get any cheaper.

"The time to do maintenance is now. It doesn't get any cheaper to defer maintenance. And in order to have a

> MOST CONGESTED CORRIDORS

» PORTLAND

- > Congress St. (295 to Eastern Prom)
- > I-295 (Route 1 to Washington Ave.)
- > Route 114 (112 to Laurel Ridge Rd.)
- > New Gorham Rd. (Bartlett to Rochester)
- > Route 22 (Plowman Rd. to Sawmill Ln.)

Most congested corridors in Portland (WGME)

viable economy, we need this backbone in our state to be safe and efficient," he said.

TRIP says a lack of funding on Maine roads will lead to further deterioration, more congestion and higher costs for drivers and investing in transportation is key to moving Maine forward.