

CBJ Morning Buzz: How much local drivers spend on deteriorating, congested roads.



Congested, deteriorating roads in the Charlotte metro area cost drivers nearly \$2,000 per year, according to a nonprofit that provides transportation research. MELISSA KEY

By [Jen Wilson](#) — Associate Editor, Charlotte Business Journal

Commuters in the Queen City lose nearly \$2,000 per year — more than motorists anywhere else in the state — due to roads that are rough, congested and lacking certain safety features, according to a new report from TRIP, a nonprofit that provides transportation research.

The report is titled “North Carolina Transportation by the Numbers: Meeting the State’s Need for Safe, Smooth and Efficient Mobility.” The analysis determined that drivers in North Carolina as a whole spend an extra \$10.3 billion extra per year to higher vehicle operating costs, traffic crashes and congestion-related delays.

In the Charlotte metro, the largest added cost — \$1,050 per year — is lost time and fuel resulting from traffic congestion. The report found the average driver here faces 48 hours of delays annually.

Local drivers also face \$601 in added vehicle maintenance expenses resulting from road conditions, plus \$301 in costs

related to crashes where the lack of adequate roadway features were likely a factor contributing, it states. That's because 23% of major locally and state-maintained roads in the region are in poor condition, and another 25% are mediocre, according to the report.

“This report is powerful because it speaks to the impacts of North Carolina’s transportation challenges in terms that make sense to everyday people. A quick look will tell you that Charlotte-area residents suffer the highest financial burden from our state’s inability to modernize transportation investments, while those in the Triad have seen some of the worst traffic fatality rates and the highest accident-related costs anywhere in the state,” said Jerry Cook, vice president of government and trade relations for Hanesbrands Inc., [in a news release outlining the key Charlotte figures](#). “Our leaders have to achieve better results if we want our transportation network to be an asset in our post-pandemic recovery.”

[The complete report is available here.](#)