

REPORT: Cost of driving in Wheeling is higher than anywhere else in W.Va.



A newly released national report says that Wheeling drivers are shelling out the most money in the state as a result of driving on poor road conditions.

by Jaime Baker
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WHEELING, W.Va. — A newly released national report says that Wheeling drivers are shelling out the most money in the state as a result of driving on poor road conditions.

According to a report released by [TRIP](#), roads are costing West Virginia drivers about \$1.6 billion a year -- for a few different reasons.

Those include roads and bridges that are deteriorated, congested, or lack safety features, plus vehicle operating costs.

Wheeling residents find themselves hit hardest, [losing more than \\$1,400 dollars a year on repairs and issues.](#)

Beckley is next, followed by Charleston and Huntington.

Drivers in the Weirton and Steubenville areas are seeing repairs come to just over \$1,100 per year.

Department of Transportation officials say road problems are due to a game of catch up they've been playing for years.

"We're using a multi-pronged approach where we use a new bond program to do new construction to alleviate some congestion and problems we have there. And we're doing a program to work on patching and keeping our roadways in as good of a condition we can," W.Va. Secretary of Transportation Byrd White said.

Just outside of Wheeling, roads in Marshall County have been a much talked about issue for years.

Delegate Lisa Zukoff says the DOH deserves credit for improvements that have been made, but there are still a lot of issues that need to be addressed on secondary roads.

"I get calls a couple times a week on somebody's road," she said. "Now, I will say DOH is pretty receptive, if there's a big pothole and you call, they will get it fixed. But we still have many slips and we have a long way to go."

Deputy Secretary Jimmy Wriston says slips have been a big focus for them over the last few years, and he feels they've made a lot of progress compared to where things stood 2 years ago.

"Just last year, District 6 placed over a million pounds of steel in fortifying walls in District 6 across the entire district. We have just recently purchased two new drills for our own crews to continue to work toward catching up," Wriston said.