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THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2021 • No. 63 • LONGMONT, COLORADO

## TRAFFIC STUDY

# 22% of Colorado's roads are in poor condition



Helen H. Richardson/The Denver Post

A truck takes the southbound E-470 exit off of Interstate 25 passes on Oct. 28, 2019, in Thornton. Below E-470 ends and turns into the Northwest Parkway. E-470 is a 47-mile-long controlled-access toll road traversing the eastern portion of the Denver-Aurora Metropolitan Area.

**BY JAKE SHAPIRO  
THE DENVER POST**

You can do a lot with an extra \$2,000 in your pocket, and that's about how much Denver drivers are squandering per year on excess wear, tear and wasted traffic hours in their vehicles. According to a [recent study](#) by Washington, D.C.-based national nonprofit transportation research group [The Road Information Program](#), crumbling infrastructure is hurting motorists' wallets.

The 50-year-old group published its "[Keeping Colorado Mobile Report](#)" on Tuesday. It describes that the average Denverite is losing \$1,242 as a result of spending 62 hours stuck in traffic, which wastes an additional 26 gallons of fuel annually.

Analysts found 22% of Colorado's roads are in poor condition, and 25% are rated as mediocre. In Denver, 37% of major local and state roads are in poor condition and another 26% are in mediocre shape. That's another \$732 on average to the regular driver repairs and lost time.

"The new TRIP report reinforces one simple fact: too many Coloradans are wasting too much of their time and money stuck on congested and potholed roads," said Mike Kopp, president and CEO of Colorado Concern.

Colorado Springs' residents face the same issue as the average driver pays \$838 annually for congestion on 44 extra hours commuting. About 30% of their major roads are in poor condition, and another 25% are

mediocre, which cost drivers about \$644 in additional costs. "Our struggling transportation systems hurt the great quality of life that draws businesses and people to our communities," said Rachel Beck, vice president of government affairs for the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce and EDC. "Sitting in traffic for an extra twenty minutes commuting to and from work has real opportunity and social costs for Colorado Springs families. That time could be much better spent helping our students out with homework, going to the gym, coaching a child's sports team, or enjoying meals around the family dinner table."

The study used data that showed that Colorado's crashes claimed the lives of 3,030 people from 2015 to 2019. Colorado's overall traffic fatality rate of 1.09 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles of travel in 2019 is lower than the national average of 1.11. Traffic crashes in Colorado totaled \$6.5 billion in economic costs in 2019. TRIP estimates that roadway features were likely a contributing factor in approximately 33% of all fatal crashes.

About 5% of Colorado's state and local bridges are in poor condition, while 54% are only in fair shape.

Approximately 1.1 million full-time jobs in Colorado in key industries like tourism, retail sales, agriculture and manufacturing are dependent on the quality, safety and reliability of the state's transportation infrastructure network. Annually, \$305 billion in goods are shipped to and from Colorado, relying heavily on the state's network of roads and bridges. The value of freight shipped to and from Colorado sites is expected to increase 82% by 2045. The report also listed the most congested highways across the state. Many were major

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COVID-19

## County reports 79 new virus cases

Colorado to keep masks on, Gov. Polis says

By KYLE HANSON  
STAFF WRITER

Despite some states jump to curtail mask mandates this month, Gov. Jared Polis said he won't follow suit until experts say it's safe enough for Coloradans to do so.

In a meeting with the Daily Camera on Wednesday, Polis was joined by state officials who provided an update on the pandemic and reflected on the past year. Friday will officially mark the one-year milestone since the virus was first detected in Colorado, according to the Denver Post. It was last year on March 14 when Boulder County detected its first case.

Also on Wednesday, Boulder County reported 79 new coronavirus cases, bringing the county's total cases to 21,062. The death toll remained at 247, according to Boulder County Public Health data. There were 19 people in Boulder County hospitals because of COVID-19 as of Wednesday — a slight drop from the 21 people in the hospital reported on Monday and Tuesday.

There have been 579 residents hospitalized because of the virus to date.

While there's hope that the pandemic's end is in sight, it's too early to eliminate the precautions put in place to limit the spread of the virus. Continuing to wear a mask is part of those precautions, Polis said.

Texas and Mississippi officials announced this week that state mask mandates would be rescinded early this month. When asked what his thoughts were about more, Polis said officials will be tracking the results in the weeks to come.

"Let's hope for the best. Let's hope they have enough resilience to make it work," Polis said. "I'm not convinced that, nor are epidemiologists or scientists based on what we know."

PHOTO BY COUNTY, IA

OLD MILL PARK

Longmont Boy Scout Troop 66 Scouts Kyle Taylor, right, and Jackson Stank look over a set of picnic tables on Wednesday that Scouts refurbished as part of his Eagle Scout project at Old Mill Park in Longmont.

## Restorations bridge generations

Boy Scout Troop 66, St. Vrain Historical Society partner on projects

By APOL MUMFORD  
STAFF WRITER

An unconventional partnership between Longmont Boy Scout Troop 66 and St. Vrain Historical Society has inadvertently bridged generations of Boy Scouts and restored much of Old Mill Park — and nearly a decade later, it's still going strong.

It all started in May 2011 when then 12-year-old Eagle Scout candidate Caleb Martinez was trying to decide what his Eagle Project should be. That's when a headline in the Longmont Times-Call Historical society invited to revive Longmont park resented with Caleb.

"Caleb was moved by the struggle and story of this group (the St. Vrain Historical Society) that envisioned a place for school children to learn about local history through class field trips and living history events," Caleb's mom, Kristy Martinez, wrote in an email.

A year later, Caleb, with help from his scoutmaster father Tony Martinez, approached the then Old Mill Park Historical Society chairman, Gales Miller.

The meeting between Troop 66 and Miller would be the start of a budding partnership between the Scouts and the historical society, one in which further tied Miller to the troop.

It was during the initial

PHOTO BY RESTORATIONS, IA

TRAFFIC STUDY

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By JAKE SHAPIRO  
THE DENVER POST

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PHOTO BY BROADS, IA

highways around Denver and Colorado Springs.

The 10.8-mile stretch of C-470 between Santa Fe Drive and Yosemite Street is the most congested, seeing 104,959 cars per day. The 10-mile stretch of Interstate 25 from Hampden Avenue to Speer Boulevard is second-worst, while Parker Road from Hampden to Cornell Street came in third.

The sixth most congested stretch of highway was a near 5-mile portion of Interstate-70 through West Vail.

PHOTO BY BROADS, IA