

## Transportation

# Massachusetts ranked among worst for traffic, bridge safety, report says



A national study ranked Massachusetts as the sixth-highest state in the nation for congested urban interstates. Pictured: Traffic has returned to the Southeast Expressway.  
Gary Higgins / Boston Business Journal

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A new study includes an unsurprising piece of information about Massachusetts: Traffic is terrible in the Bay State.

The report, released by the national transportation research nonprofit TRIP on Tuesday, ranked Massachusetts as the sixth-highest state in the nation for congested urban interstates. Other New England states didn't follow too far behind, with Rhode Island ranked seventh, Connecticut ranked eighth and New Hampshire ranked 15th.

TRIP's report is titled, "[America's Interstate Highway System at 65: Meeting America's Transportation Needs with a Reliable, Safe & Well-Maintained National Highway Network.](#)" The release of the study comes as the U.S. Interstate Highway System turns 65 years old this week.

"As the U.S. Interstate Highway System turns 65, it is congested, carries significant levels of travel — particularly by large trucks — and lacks adequate funding to make needed repairs and improvements," TRIP noted in its report. "America's most critical transportation link will need to be rebuilt and expanded to meet the nation's growing transportation needs."

The nonprofit's study looks at the Interstate Highway System's use, condition and benefits. The report also shines some light on the findings of another report released by the [Transportation Research Board](#) in 2019 on actions required to restore and upgrade the system.

The organization ranked states whose highway systems are the most congested, have experienced the greatest increase in miles traveled by vehicles since 2000, are the busiest based on daily travel per lane, have the largest share of pavement in poor condition and have the greatest share of

bridges in poor or structurally deficient condition.

According to the TRIP report, 7% percent of Massachusetts' interstate bridges are rated in poor or structurally deficient condition, the fourth-highest state in the U.S. in the category. Pavement on 3% of the state's interstate highways are also in poor condition, and it is ranked eighth in the nation for daily interstate travel per lane, clocking in at 16,326 miles. The average for the country is 14,742 miles.

"As the TRIP report makes clear, the need for accelerated investment in Massachusetts infrastructure is urgent," said Mary Maguire, AAA Northeast director of public and legislative affairs. "A safe and well-maintained Interstate Highway System will strengthen the U.S. economy, enhance mobility and facilitate more efficient movement of goods, but the future of this network could be jeopardized without increased federal investment.

"AAA Northeast urges Congress and the [Biden] administration to prioritize transportation investments and improvements to roads and bridges to ensure safe, efficient and reliable mobility in Massachusetts," Maguire added.