

Transportation

Ohio ranks among worst states for aging interstate bridges, bottlenecks



Since funding was approved for the U.S. Interstate Highway System in 1956, annual vehicle miles of travel increased by 427% in 2019.

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Thursday, June 24, 2021

Ohio received poor marks for bottlenecks and the age of its bridges but scored a high rating for lives saved due to safety precautions in a new report on the nation's interstate highways.

The study, released by transportation research nonprofit TRIP, ranked Ohio No. 6 in the U.S. for the highest percentage of bridges that are more than 50 years old (66%). Ohio also was singled out for having the second-worst traffic bottleneck in the nation – interstate 71 at 75.

On the positive side, Ohio ranks No. 4 in the number of lives saved in 2019 – 295 – due to the increased traffic safety provided by the Interstate Highway System. Safety data for all states can be found [here](#).

TRIP's report, "America's Interstate Highway System at 65: Meeting America's Transportation Needs with a Reliable, Safe & Well-Maintained National Highway Network," 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.

Other study highlights:

- Hawaii has the greatest share of interstate pavement in poor condition (23%). Ohio ranks No. 19 in the category with 3%.
- West Virginia has the greatest share of interstate bridges rated poor or structurally deficient (13%).
- California ranks No. 1 in urban interstate highways considered congested (87%). Ohio ranks No. 20 with 48%.