



TRAFFIC AND ROADS

Survey shows New Mexico needs about \$5B to fix roads

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[ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.](#) (KRQE) – New Mexico would need about \$5 billion to fix roads in critical need of improvement according to the latest study by A National Transportation Research Nonprofit (TRIP). Every year the nonprofit looks at road and bridge conditions, congestion, and traffic fatalities and calculates the cost to drivers.

The report, "[New Mexico Transportation by the Numbers: Meeting the State’s Need for Safe, Smooth and Efficient Mobility](#)", states Albuquerque drivers are spending an extra \$2,604 a year because of bad roads, sit an extra 45 hours in traffic a year, and waste 21 extra gallons of gas because of congestion. The survey shows 39% of roadways in Albuquerque are in poor condition and 21% are in mediocre condition.

| Location | VOC | Safety | Congestion | TOTAL |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Albuquerque | \$928 | \$635 | \$1,041 | \$2,604 |
| Las Cruces | \$910 | \$513 | \$418 | \$1,841 |
| Santa Fe | \$817 | \$560 | \$643 | \$2,020 |
| NEW MEXICO STATEWIDE | \$1.3 Billion | \$847 Million | \$845 Million | \$3 Billion |

Costs per motorist in New Mexico’s largest urban areas and statewide total (courtesy TRIP)

The state however is getting a lot more help from the federal government through the infrastructure investment and Jobs Act bill. “It resulted in a significant boost in funding in New Mexico. This year, the first year of the bill, the state will receive a 35% increase in federal funding for roads, highways, and bridges. So a significant addition to the funding,” said Director of TRIP Policy and Research Rocky Moretti.

The group highlighted the state’s priorities — including more than a billion dollars just to repave the interstates in New Mexico. Another focus — the well-used highways in oil country in southeast New Mexico.

Representative Rebecca Dow says, “From agriculture, mining, oil & gas industries, we have to have a good investment in our populated areas and our rural communities in order for our economy to grow.”

Some of the road needs mentioned are already in the works like a makeover on a busy stretch of Cerrillos between St. Michaels and St. Francis. The DOT says construction could start on that in summer of 2023.

https://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/21186028/trip_new_mexico_transportation_by_the_numbers_report_january_2022.pdf