



TRAFFIC AND ROADS

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

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Tuesday, January 25, 2022

[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