

Study: Rough roads cost Utica area drivers more than \$1,000 yearly

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Rough roads cost drivers

A study conducted by TRIP, a Washington, D.C. based nonprofit finds rough and unsafe road and bridge conditions cost Utica area drivers more than \$1,000 each year.

The study reported roads and bridges that are deteriorated, congested or lack some desirable safety features cost New York motorists a total of \$28 billion statewide annually - \$1,253 per driver in the Utica urban area - due to higher vehicle operating costs, traffic crashes and congestion-related delays.

Increased investment in transportation improvements at the local, state and federal levels could relieve traffic congestion, improve road, bridge and transit conditions, boost safety, and support long-term economic growth in New York, according to the report released Wednesday.

The report found that across the state almost half major locally and state-maintained roads are in poor or mediocre condition, ten percent of locally and state-maintained bridges (20 feet or more in length) are rated poor/structurally deficient, and 5,019 people lost their lives on the state's roads from 2015-2019.

The report says driving on roads in the Utica urban area costs the average driver \$1,253 per year in the form of extra vehicle operating costs as a result of driving on roads in need of repair, lost time and fuel due to congestion-related delays, and the costs of traffic crashes in which the lack of adequate roadway safety features, while not the primary factor, likely were a contributing factor.

The TRIP report finds that seven percent of major locally and state-maintained roads in the Utica urban area are in poor condition and another 21 percent are in mediocre condition, costing the average motorist an additional \$313 each year in extra vehicle operating costs, including accelerated vehicle depreciation, additional repair costs, and increased fuel consumption and tire wear.

Statewide, 26 percent of New York's major roads are in poor condition and 19 percent are in mediocre condition.