

Poor roads, traffic congestion cost NKY drivers more than \$2,100 a year

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BURLINGTON, Ky. (WKRC) – Poor roads and traffic congestion cost each Northern Kentucky driver an extra \$2,154 annually according to a new study.

TRIP, a nonprofit funded in part by insurance companies, manufacturers and roadbuilding companies, issued the state of Kentucky roads report Tuesday.

Overall, road conditions cost Kentucky drivers an extra \$2.7 billion annually – with car repairs and maintenance, lost time to congestion and fuel costs the major factors.

The state also has the fourth-highest rate of traffic fatalities by population in the country, [the report stated](#).

The Northern Kentucky cost per driver is the highest among major population centers in the commonwealth. By comparison, road conditions cost Louisville drivers \$1,888 extra each annually, while the cost to Lexington drivers is about \$1,500.

One major factor for the higher costs is the congestion caused by the Brent Spence Bridge, TRIP and other state officials said.

"When you look at Northern Kentucky, and you look at the congestion costs in particular, certainly you would anticipate that the challenges with that major river crossing is one of the sources of congestion and certainly obviously it's a national chokepoint," said TRIP director of policy and research Rocky Moretti.

He also pointed out that the Brent Spence Bridge carries about 6 percent of the nation's gross domestic product.

The study comes as the Kentucky General Assembly is meeting in Frankfort, and those pushing for more road funding pointed out Wednesday the state hasn't raised its gas tax in 2015.

That's when lawmakers approved the current rate of 26 cents a gallon as a minimum, with the tax linked to wholesale fuel prices.

Others on the presentation Wednesday highlighted the increased use of electric cars, which don't rely on gas and therefore don't pay into the highway fund with gas taxes.

[TRIP Kentucky Transportation by the Numbers Report February 2022](#) by [WKRC](#) on Scribd