

These 20 Michigan highways are ranked the worst for unpredictable traffic jams

By [Melissa Frick | mfrick@mlive.com](#)



A recent study of Michigan's roads, highways and bridges found that over the last two decades, traffic delays due to congestion have increased significantly in Michigan's largest urban areas. **Nate Manley**

It's 8 a.m. on a weekday and you're cruising down the highway to get to work. All of a sudden, you see hundreds of red brake lights lined up ahead of you. It's the commuter's most dreaded woe: getting stuck in a traffic jam.

We've all experienced a similar scenario. And if you're from Detroit, Grand Rapids or Ann Arbor, you likely know this feeling all too well. Those three cities have the least reliable highway routes in the state due to unexpected traffic jams, according to a 2022 study of Michigan's roadways.

TRIP, a national nonprofit that analyzes transportation issues, recently ranked the 20 worst highway routes in Michigan based on the likeliness that they will unexpectedly slow your work commute. The report used data from a 2019 Michigan Department of Transportation [analysis](#) of the state's freeway and congestion reliability.

The study found that over the last two decades, traffic delays due to congestion have increased significantly in Michigan's largest urban areas.

In Detroit, traffic delays increased by 15% from 2000 to 2019, rising from approximately 139 million hours to 160 million hours. In Grand Rapids, traffic delays increased by 69% in that same time period, rising from approximately 10 million hours to 17 million hours.

When factoring in the cost of time lost and wasted fuel, traffic congestion costs the state \$5.5 billion a year, or \$1,382 a year for the average Michigan household, according to the report.

Michigan will need to invest more money into improving its transportation systems in order to address traffic delay issues, the report said. Improving traffic flow would support economic development in Michigan by improving the competitiveness of local businesses.

"Traffic congestion, particularly in Michigan's largest urban areas, reduces travel time reliability and impedes economic competitiveness," the report states. "Over the next decade, Michigan's level of investment in projects and programs to relieve traffic congestion and improve travel reliability will determine whether congestion levels and reliability improve or get worse."

The table below ranks the least-reliable highway routes in Michigan, based on their travel time reliability during peak travel hours, according to data provided by TRIP.

Travel time reliability measures how consistent the travel time is from one point to another, from one day to the next, the report explained. When travel times are unreliable, travelers are more likely to experience unexpected delays.

This list is sorted by both ranking and period of day. You can search "AM" or "PM" in the search box to only show the rankings based on time of day.

Michigan highways top 40 least-reliable routes

Search a metro area, route, road or AM / PM in the window below. Rankings are of least-reliable routes during peak traffic hours and period of the day.

Rank	Period of day	Metro Area	Route	From	To
1	AM	Detroit	I-75 SB	Chrysler Drive/Exit 78	I-75 BL / M-24/Exit 81
1	PM	Detroit	I75 NB	I-75 BL/Exit 75	Joslyn Rd / Exit 83
2	AM	Ann Arbor	M-14 WB	US-23	Gotfredson Rd / Exit 15
2	PM	Detroit	I-696 EB	Orchard Lake Rd / Exit 5	M-10 / Exit 10
3	AM	Ann Arbor	I-94 WB	State St / Exit 177	US-12 / Michigan Ave / Exit 181
3	PM	Detroit	I-96 WB	Novi Rd / Exit 162	I-696 / M-5 / Exit 165
4	AM	Detroit	I-75 NB	I-696 / Exit 61	14 Mile Road / Exit 65
4	PM	Ann Arbor	I-94 EB	Ann Arbor Saline Rd / Exit 175	I-94 BR / US-23 / Exit 180
5	AM	Detroit	I-75 SB	8 Mile Road / Exit 59	14 Mile Road / Exit 65
5	PM	Ann Arbor	US-23 SB	I-94 /Exit 35	Plymouth Rd/Exit 41
6	AM	Grand Rapids	I-196 EB	Fuller Ave / Exit 79	I-96 / M-37
6	PM	Detroit	I-94 WB	14 th St.	John R St / Exit 215
7	AM	Ann Arbor	US-23 SB	Plymouth Rd / Exit 41	M-14 / Exit 42
7	PM	Grand Rapids	I-196 EB	Fuller Ave / Exit 79	I-96 / M-37
8	AM	Detroit	M-10 SB	Webb St / Elmhurst St.	Wyoming St
8	PM	Detroit	M-39 NB	US-21 / Michigan Ave / Exit 6	Joy Rd. / Exit 9
9	AM	Detroit	I-96 EB	Milford Rd / Exit 155	Beck Rd / Exit 160

9	PM	Detroit	I-75 NB	John R Rd/Exit 60	14 Mile Road / Exit 65
10	AM	Detroit	I-94 EB	30th St. / Exit 212	14th St.
10	PM	Detroit	I-75 SB	11 Mile Road / Exit 62	Rochester Road / Exit 67
11	AM	Detroit	I-696 WB	Southfield Rd / Exit 12	M-1 / Woodward Ave / Exit 16
11	PM	Detroit	I-94 EB	I-96 / Exit 213	French Rd. / Exit 220
12	AM	Grand Rapids	US-131 S	Ann St / Exit 88	I-96 / M-37/Exit 98 (N)
12	PM	Grand Rapids	US-131 NB	36th St / Exit 80	Cherry St / Exit 84
13	AM	Detroit	I-94 WB	M-35 / Van Dyke / Exit 218	Cadieux Rd / Exit 223
13	PM	Detroit	I-96 EB	8 Mile Rd / Exit 167	M-14 / Jeffries Fwy
14	AM	Detroit	I-275 NB	M-153 / Ford Rd / Exit 25	I-96 / M-14 / Exit 29
14	PM	Detroit	I-94 EB	I-696 / 11 Mile Rd. / Exit 229	12 Mile Rd. / Exit 230
15	AM	Detroit	M-39 SB	Plymouth Rd / Exit 10	I-96 / Exit 11
15	PM	Ann Arbor	US-23 NB	Silver Lake Rd / Exit 55	I-96 / Exit 60
16	AM	Detroit	I-75 NB	I-96/Ambassador Bridge/Exit 47 & 48	Grand River Ave Exit 50
16	PM	Grand Rapids	US-131 NB	Pearl St / Exit 85	Leonard St / Exit 87
17	AM	Detroit	I-75 SB	Clay Street / Exit 54	Caniff St. / Exit 55
17	PM	Detroit	I-94 EB	Harper Ave. / Exit 234	Metropolitan Pkwy / Exit 236
18	AM	Grand Rapids	I-96 EB	Leonard St / Exit 36	M-21 / Exit 39
18	PM	Detroit	I-94 WB	Ecorse Rd / Exit 200	M-39 / Southfield Fwy / Exit 204
19	AM	Detroit	M-53	23 Mile Rd	26 Mile Rd
19	PM	Detroit	I-96 WB	7 Mile Rd / Exit 169	I-275 / M-14
20	AM	Detroit	I-75 NB	M-59 / Exit 77	Chrysler Dr / Exit 78
20	PM	Ann Arbor	US-23 NB	Barker Rd / Exit 52	M-36 / Exit 54

Michigan vehicle travel did decline during 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the report. But it rebounded by 2021.

Vehicle travel in Michigan dropped by as much as 54% in April 2020, when compared to travel during April 2019. But by November 2021, travel levels had rebounded to 5% above November 2019, data shows.