

Charlotte roads are bad, research finds

Charlotte drivers lose an estimated 47 hours per year to congestion.



Author: James Brierton (WCNC) | April 21, 2023

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — New research from a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit finds that Charlotte has some of the worst roads, and the worst traffic congestion, across North Carolina.

Statewide, 33% of North Carolina's major roads are in poor or mediocre condition, according to the report from the [National Transportation Research Nonprofit \(TRIP\)](#). Of all the metro areas in North Carolina, Charlotte had the largest percentage number of roads in bad condition.

The group ranked roads in Asheville, Charlotte, Raleigh-Durham, the Triad, and Wilmington into four categories: poor, mediocre, fair, and good. In those four categories, Charlotte had the largest number of roads in poor and fair condition -- and tied the Triad with roads in mediocre condition. Only Asheville had more than half of its roads in good condition, according to the assessment.

Location	Poor	Mediocre	Fair	Good
Asheville	11.00	16.00	19.00	54.00
Charlotte	16.00	28.00	23.00	33.00
Raleigh-Durham	13.00	25.00	21.00	42.00
The Triad	12.00	28.00	20.00	41.00
Wilmington	16.00	25.00	21.00	37.00
North Carolina Statewide	10.00	23.00	23.00	44.00

Source: [National Transportation Research Nonprofit](#)

Additionally, TRIP found that Charlotte commuters have more lost hours due to congestion than their counterparts in other Charlotte cities.

Charlotte drivers lose an estimated 47 hours per year to congestion. The group equates that to 19 gallons of wasted fuel per driver and \$1,342 worth of productivity.

TRIP's "Moving North Carolina Forward" report examines the condition, use, safety and efficiency of North Carolina's surface transportation system and the impact of additional transportation funding, according to the group.

In response to the report, the [North Carolina Department of Transportation](#) sent WCNC Charlotte this statement:

While NCDOT does not typically comment on reports prepared outside of the department, we appreciate any discussions on ways to fund the future of transportation in North Carolina. NCDOT will continue to work with our partners to deliver safe and reliable transportation options for all who travel in our state.

The full report from the [National Transportation Research Nonprofit](#) can be found below:

https://tripnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/TRIP_Moving_North_Carolina_Forward_Report_April_2023.pdf