

Report finds \$1.2 billion funding shortfall for New York Thruway



[Abigail Rubel](#)

May 8, 2023

A [report](#) by TRIP, a transportation research nonprofit based in Washington, found that Thruway revenues through 2031 won't be sufficient to meet the system's rehabilitation needs, resulting in a \$1.2 billion funding gap needed to maintain high levels of safety and service, good infrastructure conditions, support operations and maintain debt service coverage at appropriate levels.

Annual revenue from Thruway tolls increased 16 percent, from \$638 million to \$740 million, from 2012-2019, decreased 17 percent during the COVID-19 pandemic and rebounded to \$760 million in 2021, according to a 2022 report prepared for the Thruway Authority by a consulting firm. Toll revenue is projected to increase another seven percent to \$867 million by 2031, with the number of trips expected to go up by 9 percent.

The Thruway's annual debt service is projected to increase by 78 percent from 2022-2032, to \$543 million. Additionally, annual investment dropped 37 percent between 2012 and 2022, and though it's expected to rebound 24 percent by 2031, it would still remain nine percent below 2012 levels.

The TRIP report also found that trips on the Thruway have returned to near pre-pandemic levels. Pavement conditions improved 11 percent from 2017-2020, as measured by the Average Lane Distress Index, but declined in 2020 and 2021. A 2022 analysis of surface distress on the Thruway found that 48 percent of the system is in poor condition, 26 percent is in fair condition and 26 percent is in good condition.

Have a question about transportation in the Capital Region? Email gettingthere@timesunion.com and include your name, town and phone number or tweet [@abigail_rubel](https://twitter.com/abigail_rubel).