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New report shows need for transportation funding in New Mexico



by: [Isaac Cruz](#) | Friday, January 26, 2024

NEW MEXICO (KRQE) – A new [report investigating New Mexico’s roadways](#) says a lack of funding will make it difficult to maintain and improve the state’s existing transportation system.

The TRIP report says 32% of major locally and state-maintained roads have pavement in poor condition. The report also found that 5% of the state’s bridges are rated as poor condition.

Federal funding boosted transportation funding by 38% since 2021, but the report points out that inflation has raised the costs of labor and materials by 36%. The report identified nearly \$6.6 billion in critically needed transportation projects across the state. The report concludes deterioration and congestion cost the average driver more than \$900 per year in repairs, fuel, and other expenses. “This year in 2022, New Mexico is actually leading the country with a four percent increase in vehicle travel which puts the state at a higher level than pre-pandemic,” said Director of Policy & Research at TRIP, Rocky Moretti.

It also means some drivers are losing up to 48 hours annually in traffic delays. Bridges also need work. “The TRIPS Report also found that five percent of NM’s bridges are rated in poor condition. These are bridges that, while still safe to carry,” said Moretti.

The report also says the road conditions are costing New Mexico drivers \$3.3 billion annually.

A bill before the New Mexico Legislature sponsored by Sen. Michael Padilla and Rep. Day Hochman-Vigil would create a trust fund for the New Mexico Department of Transportation to ensure funding is available for road maintenance projects.

To view the full report, [click here](#).