

## REPORT: How much are Capital Region roads costing drivers?



New York roads that are rough, congested, or don't have certain safety features may be costing you money

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ALBANY, N.Y. ([NEWS10](#)) — New York roads that are rough, congested, or don't have certain safety features may be costing you money. A new report by TRIP, [a Washington, DC-based national transportation research non-profit](#), said the current status of Capital Region roads is costing drivers about \$1,900 a year.

According to the report, that number comes from higher vehicle operating costs, lack of road safety features, and congestion-related delays. Broken down, it costs Albany area drivers about \$462 in extra vehicle operating costs, \$542 from traffic crashes, and \$890 in congestion-related delays. Vehicle operating costs may include accelerated vehicle depreciation, repair costs, and increased fuel consumption, and tire wear due to road conditions. The financial impact of traffic crashes due to a lack of adequate roadway safety features may also cost drivers money, said the report.

Traffic congestion causes 46 hours of delay each year for the average driver and results in lost time and wasted fuel. Capital Region drivers waste an average of 21 gallons of fuel annually due to congestion, said the report.

Traffic crashes in New York claimed the lives of 5,207 people between 2018 and 2022. In the Capital Region, on average, 41 people were killed in traffic crashes each year from 2017 to 2021.

In the Albany-Schenectady-Troy area, about 15% of major local and state roads are in poor condition and another 21% are in mediocre condition. About 8% of area bridges are rated poor or structurally deficient, said the report.

“Congestion and the deterioration on our roads and bridges have real consequences for the traveling public and for our region’s economy,” said Mark Eagan, president and CEO of the Capital Region Chamber and the Center for Economic Growth. “Government at all levels must make a concerted effort to improve our roads and bridges.”

Across the entire state of New York, roads are costing drivers about \$36.7 billion in total each year. The TRIP report found that about half of the major local and state-maintained roads in New York State are in poor or mediocre condition. The report also found that about 9% of local and state-maintained bridges are rated poor or structurally deficient, and the state’s traffic fatality rate has increased significantly since 2019.

To mediate some of these issues, the report cites that funding by local, state, and federal governments should be increased to improve New York’s roads. This increased investment could relieve traffic congestion, improve road and bridge conditions, boost safety, and support long-term economic growth in the state.

“Long-term, sustained transportation funding is needed to allow New York to move forward with necessary improvements to its transportation network that will make the state’s roads and bridges smoother, safer, and more efficient while boosting the economy and creating jobs,” said Dave Kearby, TRIP’s executive director. “In addition to the federal investment, it will be critical that New York continues to increase its level of transportation investment.”