

# New report shows Syracuse drivers lose nearly \$1,800 per year due to poor road conditions

by Allura Leggard | Tue, January 30th 2024



A newly released TRIP report shows that in the Syracuse area, motorists lose nearly \$1,800 per year driving on roads that are rough, congested, and lack some desirable safety features. (Photo by CNY Central)

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Syracuse area motorists an average of \$1,771 per year in the form of extra vehicle operating costs. That's according to a new report from TRIP, a national transportation research nonprofit. TRIP reports, that 29 percent of major local and state-maintained roads in the Syracuse area are in poor condition, while 15 percent are in mediocre condition.

Director of Policy and Research Rocky Moretti said in total, the average extra vehicle operating cost in New York State is nearly \$37 billion.

Its priority is safety, but the nonprofit's agenda is also to get state and local governments to spend more on roads and bridges to benefit the construction industry.

"Hopefully, we're going to see inflation rates slow down significantly. We still lose 36% of our buying power. So, that's going to be a huge challenge for all levels of government to have the resources to provide a system that is well-maintained, reliable, and most critically, safe."

TRIP is sponsored by insurance companies, equipment manufacturers, distributors, and suppliers -- businesses involved in highway and transit engineering and construction, labor unions, and organizations concerned

with an efficient and safe surface transportation network that promotes economic development and quality of life. Their current board president, Jeff Distefano, is the CEO of Harrison & Murrowes Bridge Construction. It promotes transportation policies that help relieve traffic congestion and its impact on air quality, improve road and bridge conditions, make surface travel safer, and enhance economic productivity.

Tony McKeen is a Harley owner himself. He has spent thousands on damages due to the poor condition of local roads.

"There are potholes everywhere in general, it's not just in the city itself. It's on the outskirts; it's on some of the roads and motorcycles hit them and they go crazy, and they lose tires and rims and then become costly."

Moretti said improving the condition of our roads doesn't just benefit the businesses involved, but the people driving on them every day.

***"If you're able to keep your roads and bridges in better condition obviously, your vehicles are going to last longer, you're going to save money."***