

New Report Finds Significant Amount of Bridges in Erie in Poor Condition

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A new report found that a significant number of bridges throughout the Erie area are in poor condition and in need of repairs.

The report, *Preserving Pennsylvania's Bridges: The Condition and Funding Needs of Pennsylvania's Aging Bridge System*, was recently released by TRIP, a national transportation research nonprofit based out of Washington, DC.

The report is based off of data from the Federal Highway Administration's National Bridge Inventory, which requires all bridges in PA that are 20 feet or longer, to be inspected every two years.

The report found that 10 percent of Erie's 444 bridges are considered to be in poor condition.

An estimated 71,000 vehicles travel across these bridges every day.

The report also lists the most heavily traveled bridges in Erie that are in poor condition.

Topping the list, is the bridge on State Route 505/Perry Highway that runs over Mill Creek in Millcreek Township.

"Bridges in poor condition have a significant impact on the functioning of a region's economy," said TRIP Director of Policy & Research Rocky Moretti. "It can also in situations where the bridges are restricted for lighter weight vehicles or actually closed, impact the movement of an emergency vehicle or trucks, school buses and farm equipment, so all having a huge impact on the functioning of a region's economy."

It's not all bad news.

According to Moretti, the current bridge conditions in PA are much better than a decade ago, when 25 percent of the state's bridges were rated in poor conditions, which was the highest level across the country at that time.