

The Patriot-News

THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024

10% of Harrisburg-area bridges, carrying 600K vehicles a day, in 'poor condition': report



A bridge on Paxton Street in Harrisburg is one of the most heavily traveled bridges in the region that is rated to be in poor condition. June 20, 2024. Sean Simmers | ssimmers@pennlive.com Sean Simmers

By Amy Worden | aworden@pennlive.com

Editor's note: Story has been updated with comments from Gov. Shapiro

Each day close to 600,000 vehicles in the Harrisburg area travel across bridges rated in poor condition, including bridges in Dauphin, Cumberland, York and Perry counties, according to a new report from a transportation research nonprofit group.

The [report](#) by National Transportation Research Nonprofit, or TRIP, based in Washington, D.C., found that 10 percent — or 151 of 1,551 bridges in the Harrisburg area — rated a 4 or less on a scale of zero to 10. The 10 most heavily travelled and most deficient bridges include those on I-83 and I-81 at multiple interchanges.

Bridges in poor condition

The 10 most heavily traveled bridges longer than 20 feet that are in poor condition in the Harrisburg area, ranked by average daily traffic

Rank	County	Road	Where bridge is located	Year Built	Lanes
1	York	I-83	I-83 and U.S. 30	1959	5
2	York	I-83	I-83 Exit 22	1957	4
3	York	I-83	Near PA 174 interchange	1959	4
4	Cumberland	I-81 north	Over Pa. Turnpike	1963	2
5	Cumberland	I-81 south	Over Pa. Turnpike	1963	2
6	Cumberland	U.S. 11	Over Letort Spring Creek	1908	4
7	Dauphin	PA 230	Harrisburg over Asylum Run	1950	4
8	Perry	U.S. 11&15	Marysville over Fishing Creek	1936	2
9	Dauphin	Paxton Street	Over Nortfolk Southern railroad at 2nd Street	1929	2
10	Dauphin	PA 3012	Derry Street over Sprig Creek	1938	2

Table: Megan Lavey-Heaton | PennLive.com Source: [Federal Highway Administration National Bridge Inventory](#) Get the data Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Overall, 13 percent Pennsylvania local or state-maintained bridges were rated 4 or below, the sixth worst in the nation.

That's actually a significant improvement. A decade ago, 23% of Pennsylvania bridges were deficient and the state ranked worst in the nation. Increases in state and federal highway funding in the past decade reduced the number of bridges in poor condition by 42%.

The remaining 87% of bridges are rated in fair or good condition.

Pennsylvania bridges are on average more than a half-century old. The average age of the bridges in poor condition is 84 years. Ratings, determined

during two-year inspection cycles, are based on deck, substructure and superstructure.



A bridge on Derry and Paxtang Parkway is one of about 10% of bridges in the Harrisburg area that is rated as being in poor condition. June 20, 2024. Sean Simmers | ssimmers@pennlive.com

Bridges that are rated in poor condition have significant deterioration to the major components of the bridge.

"[The report] finds that despite substantial improvements in Pennsylvania's bridge conditions over the past decade, significant deficiencies remain and additional funding is needed to avoid a reversal of recent bridge improvements," TRIP said in a press release.

Gov. Josh Shapiro's 2023-2024 budget included \$125 million in state funds for roads and bridges and Shapiro has proposed another \$125 million in his current budget with a plan to spend a total of roughly \$1 billion in state and federal funding on road and bridge improvements over four years.

"Governor Shapiro is committed to ensuring our roads and bridges are safe and well-maintained all across the Commonwealth," the administration said in an email.

The Shapiro administration repaired 74 bridges in 2023 and has started 161 bridge projects in the first half of 2024, the administration said. The TRIP report findings are based on data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and PennDOT.

Bridges with lower average ratings

The following 10 poor/structurally deficient bridges in the Harrisburg area carrying a minimum of 500 vehicles per day have the lowest average rating for deck, substructure and superstructure.

Rank	County	Road	Where bridge is located	Year Built	Lanes
1	Dauphin	PA 147	Over Powell Creek	1860	2
2	Dauphin	South Nyes Road	Over Beaver Creek	1984	2
3	York	PA 921	Over Little Conewago Creek	1948	2
4	Dauphin	Locust Lane	Over a tributary to Beaver Creek	1959	2
5	York	Paper Mill	Over Muddy Creek	1937	2
6	York	Industrial Highway	Over Three Mile Run	1970	2
7	York	Main Street in Glen Rock	Over Codorus Creek	1923	2
8	York	West College Ave.	Over Codorus Creek	1961	2
9	Cumberland	PA 2031 in Lower Allen Township	Over Cedar Creek	1952	2
10	York	PA 2079 in Felton	Over a tributary to Muddy Creek	1951	2

Table: Megan Lavey-Heaton | PennLive.com Source: [Federal Highway Administration National Bridge Inventory](#) Get the data Created with [Datawrapper](#)