

TRIP issues report on bridges in poor condition in Pennsylvania and greater Pittsburgh region



[Bob Mayo](#)
Reporter



PITTSBURGH — A national group called TRIP is out with [a new report on bridges](#) in the Pittsburgh area and across Pennsylvania that are in need of repair or replacement.

"The TRIP report finds that 13% of Pennsylvania's locally and state-maintained bridges are rated in poor condition. The sixth highest rate across the country," said Rocky Moretti, TRIP director of policy and research.

The report says 12% of bridges in an eight-county greater Pittsburgh area are rated in poor condition. That's 510 bridges out of 4,190, and they carry nearly 1.2 million vehicles a day.

The [now-closed Charles Anderson Bridge](#) in the city of Pittsburgh is on TRIP's list of the 10 most heavily traveled bridges in the Pittsburgh area that are in poor condition.

Also on that list is the now-closed Panther Hollow overpass.

Work to repair or replace them both is to start later this year.

The city says the Bloomfield Bridge is No. 9 on its own priority list. That bridge had minor repairs last year, and construction for "comprehensive preservation" is planned for 2026.

"Bloomfield Bridge is definitely one I cross on foot all the time. And you look down at the big ravine and think about what might be underneath you, especially after the Fern Hollow Bridge goes down," said Shawn Maddey, a Bloomfield resident.

"We're not suggesting that by crossing a bridge in poor condition that there's an imminent danger. Certainly, the state transportation inspectors, if they felt that a bridge was putting the public in danger, the bridge would be closed or at the very least restricted to lighter weight vehicles," Moretti said.

"I am a cyclist, and I use the bridges regularly. And they are unsafe, they are very dangerous, and I think we could do so much better. Public infrastructure is a way to improve this country," said Bloomfield resident Sascha Nemseff. "It's a

necessary investment, and it shouldn't compete with any other expenses."

"They don't last forever. So, yeah, they need upgraded," said John Jones, of Bloomfield.

"The current bridge conditions in Pennsylvania are actually significantly better than just a decade ago, when 25% of Pennsylvania bridges were rated in poor condition. The highest level across the country at that time," Moretti said.

"I do know those smaller bridges, there's years that I've never seen them worked on. And then that one that collapsed, that's scary. That is terrifying. So I really hope that they do something about it because that's not OK. This is a city of bridges," said Kayleigh Conte, of Bloomfield.

Dan DeBone, president and CEO, of the Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce, took part in the TRIP news conference.

"Every single day, thousands of workers and countless goods travel in these bridges. Any disruption could have severe consequences for local businesses, employment and the wider economy," DeBone said.

Some other bridges on the TRIP list, you might not realize are bridges. For example, the lanes of the Pennsylvania Turnpike that travel over Plum Creek near Penn Hills, which tops the list.

Second and third on the TRIP list of most heavily traveled poor-condition bridges in the Pittsburgh region are:

The south end of the bridge carrying Washington Avenue over Chartiers Creek and the portion of PA Route 22 over Raccoon Creek in Smith Township, Washington County.

TRIP is a nonprofit research organization funded by manufacturers, insurance companies, construction companies, labor and engineering organizations.

The report is a review of data from the Federal Highway Administration's National Bridge Inventory. FHA looks at inspection data on bridges collected every two years. For its Pennsylvania report, TRIP supplemented the data with some information from PennDOT.

TRIP also says 13 percent of Pennsylvania's locally and state-maintained bridges are rated in poor condition. The 6th highest rate across the country. and that every day 10.1 million vehicles cross a Pennsylvania bridge rated in poor condition.

It also says that while federal funding for infrastructure is up by 46%, since 2022 the costs of highway construction repairs including bridges is up by 44%.

The city of Pittsburgh issued its own bridge report this year. [The details are posted here.](#)

[Here are details](#) of the city's Bridge Asset Management Program.