



New report shows Maine roads cost drivers nearly \$1,900 annually



Downtown Bangor - WABI

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BANGOR, Maine (WABI) - Maine drivers lose a total of \$1.6 billion every year due to deficient roads and bridges. That's according to a [new report released Tuesday](#) by national transportation research nonprofit TRIP.

In the Bangor area, that cost is nearly \$1,900 per motorist a year.

"These costs include lost time when roads are congested and it takes you longer to get places. We put a value on that lost time. It's the cost of driving on rough roads, which puts vehicles under more stress, which accelerates their deterioration and also increases fuel consumption and tire wear," said Rocky Moretti, director of policy & research, TRIP.

The study also looked at the economic toll of fatal crashes, which also cost the lives of nearly 800 people in Maine from 2019 to 2023.

While the report found Maine received a significant boost in funding for road and bridge repairs from federal and state sources starting in 2021, even more money is needed.

"In order to continue to make these improvements, maintenance is going to need to have in place predictable funding, rather than relying on short-term, one-time funding infusions," Moretti said.

"'Predictable or sustained funding.' I love how you put that because the ups and downs are just impossible to manage. And when we have 70% of our roads looking at a four-to-seven-year life, we don't want to be in panic mode. We want to be able to do this responsibly," said Mary Ann Brenchick, deputy public works director, City of Augusta.

The mayor of Gardiner shared the success story of two bridge replacement projects over the last four years.

"We suffered two catastrophic floods last year, and the new bridges really held up well, so we're grateful for that and the resilience that it provided to our historic downtown," said Mayor Patricia Hart.

It's a sign of what can come down the road for Maine.

"We greatly benefit from all of the transportation investment here in Gardiner, and we look forward to seeing how we can all work together to continue to make more resilient communities and safer transportation," Hart said.

"We all want the same end goal of, you know, safe and sustainable roads and transportation. So, just to say a little bit about where the rubber meets the road is covered works," said Brenchick.

To read TRIP's full report, "Keeping Maine Mobile," you can find it [here](#).