

Report: Nearly 1 in 4 major Colorado roads need repairs, and it's costing drivers

by: [Brooke Williams](#) | January 22, 2025



An orange diamond shaped traffic sign that says Road Work Ahead. The sign is posted in front of road construction in a residential neighborhood in Colorado. (Getty Images)

DENVER ([KDVR](#)) — Colorado drivers know many roads across the state are in need of repairs, and a recent report suggests that the rough roads are costing drivers billions of dollars statewide each year. TRIP, a national transportation research nonprofit, released its [Keeping Colorado Mobile – January 2025 report](#), which found that Coloradans pay thousands of dollars each year due to driving on roads that are congested, in poor condition or structurally deficient. The organization calculated the average cost that drivers in the state's largest urban areas face due to driving on rough roads, the cost of crashes due to a lack of roadway safety features and the cost of lost time and fuel wasted in congested traffic. According to the report, Colorado drivers lose a total of \$11.4 billion each year due to deteriorating roads, congestion and lacking safety features, with some drivers in some areas of the state facing more costs than others.

Location	Poor road conditions	Safety	Congestion	Total
Colorado Springs	\$787	\$555	\$1,268	\$2,610
Denver	\$901	\$484	\$1,675	\$3,060
Grand Junction	\$787	\$591	\$326	\$1,704
Northern Colorado	\$843	\$617	\$639	\$2,099
Pueblo	\$621	\$983	\$827	\$2,431
Colorado statewide	\$3.7 Billion	\$2.9 Billion	\$4.8 Billion	\$11.4 Billion

TRIP's Keeping Colorado Mobile January 2025 report

Rough roads causing wear on vehicles

According to the report, 24% of major roads across the state, both locally and state-maintained, are in poor condition and 5% of bridges are rated poor or structurally deficient.

The average Colorado driver pays an additional \$831 in vehicle operating costs each year because of the road conditions, according to the report.

The report also found that 432 of the 8,965 bridges in Colorado are rated as poor or have significant deterioration to the bridge deck, supports, or other major components, including:

- Colorado Springs: 4
- Denver: 73
- Grand Junction: 5

- Northern Colorado: 40
- Pueblo: 12

Location	Poor	Fair	Good
Colorado Springs	28%	45%	27%
Denver	33%	46%	21%
Grand Junction	27%	46%	27%
Northern Colorado	31%	47%	22%
Pueblo	37%	42%	20%
Colorado statewide	24%	41%	35%

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According to the report, most bridges are designed to last 50 years and 30% of Colorado's bridges were built 56 or more years ago. "Despite recent increases in state and federal transportation funding, CDOT projects a \$350 million per year shortfall in funding needed to maintain and enhance the system," the report stated.

Traffic congestion increasing in Colorado

Roads have been growing increasingly congested in recent years across the state, with numbers rebounding 1% above pre-pandemic levels in 2024, according to the report.

Location	Hours lost to congestion	Annual cost per driver	Gallons of fuel wasted per driver
Colorado Springs	54	\$1,268	21
Denver	67	\$1,675	26
Grand Junction	13	\$326	4
Northern Colorado	25	\$639	9
Pueblo	31	\$827	10

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The increasing traffic has caused more delays, costing Colorado drivers a total of \$4.8 Billion in the form of lost time and wasted fuel, according to the report.

Rising traffic deaths costing drivers

According to the report, traffic crashes in Colorado claimed an average of 679 lives each year between 2019 and 2023, and traffic deaths increased by 49% between 2013 to 2023.

Location	Avg. fatalities 2018-2022	Cost of crashes per driver
Colorado Springs	81	\$555
Denver	176	\$484
Grand Junction	18	\$591
Northern Colorado	86	\$617
Pueblo	32	\$983

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"The financial impact of traffic crashes in which the lack of adequate roadway safety features, while not the primary factor, were likely a contributing factor, was an average of \$484 annually per each Denver area driver – a total of \$2.9 billion statewide," the report states.

The report noted that the Colorado Department of Transportation has formed a statewide safety coalition that focuses on improving safety in the areas of safety culture, safe people, safe roads, safe driving, and improved post-crash care.