

TRANSPORTATION

# New report shows poor road conditions cost New Yorkers billions

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*A new report has found that New Yorkers lose \$38 billion per year on vehicle costs due to the condition of roadways. (AP Photo/Gary Kazanjian)*

A new report shows that it's pretty expensive to drive in New York due to the poor condition of roadways and bridges.

The [report](#), released by the nonprofit "TRIP," a Washington, D.C.-based national transportation research nonprofit, found that New Yorkers lose \$38 billion per year on vehicle costs due to the condition of roadways. In total, TRIP found that 45% of major state and local roadways are in poor or mediocre condition.

As for what this means for the average driver in upstate New York, the report says it costs you more than \$1,700 per year.

“Excessive wear and tear and damage to our vehicles, loss of productivity while sitting in traffic, and injury and even some deaths from unsafe road conditions are symptoms of an underfunded transportation system,” said Jeffrey Smith, president of the New York State County Highway Superintendents Association. “At a time when [the] affordability of living and working in New York is a challenge, these extraordinary costs to motorists can be mitigated by increasing public investments in our state and local roads, bridges and culverts.”

The report finds that 35% of major locally and state-maintained roads in the Buffalo-Niagara Falls area are in poor or mediocre condition, costing motorists an additional \$465 each year in extra vehicle operating costs.

Additionally, 9% of New York's bridges are also rated in poor or deficient condition, which is the tenth highest rate in the nation.