

NYC area drivers paid average \$3,500 due to poor road conditions in 2024

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The average driver in the metropolitan area — including Long Island — paid nearly \$3,500 in costs associated with congested, poor and unsafe roads last year, according to a new report by a transportation research group. Peter Gill reports in *NEWSDAY* that the figure factors in time and fuel wasted while stuck in traffic jams, extra vehicle operating costs after driving over potholes and the financial costs of traffic crashes, according to TRIP, the Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit that authored the study.

In 2021, TRIP estimated the cost at about \$3,200 — although at that point the country was still coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The costs have increased even as the bipartisan infrastructure law — which President Joe Biden signed into law in late 2021 — is bringing about \$13.5 billion in highway and bridge investments in New York over five years.

Rocky Moretti, TRIP's director of policy and research, said while federal money has been coming in, crucial state and local funding has dropped off.

Meanwhile, inflation — which for highway construction labor and materials was 46% from 2022 to 2024 — has meant that each dollar for transportation doesn't go as far, according to the report.

TRIP's report does not cover the potential effects of congestion pricing, which began in Manhattan on Jan. 5.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority has said travel times and congestion in and out of NYC appear to have reduced as a result of tolling, although experts say it may take months to see its true impact.
