

TRIP Report: Road, Bridge Conditions and Traffic Fatalities in Northwestern PA Under Scrutiny

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A new statewide report from the national transportation research nonprofit TRIP reveals mixed infrastructure grades for roads and bridges in Erie, Warren, and Crawford counties, with local traffic fatality rates in all three counties above the state average.

According to the "Pennsylvania Local Roads and Bridges" report, Erie County has 621 miles of local roads, with 19% rated in poor condition.

While nearly 40% are considered excellent, the report flags ongoing issues with aging bridge infrastructure.

Of the county's 467 locally owned bridges, 9% are rated in poor condition.

In Warren County, nearly half of the 444 miles of local roads are rated poor or fair, and 16% of the county's 265 local bridges are structurally deficient, the highest percentage among the three counties.

Warren also reports the highest traffic fatality rate, with 2.65 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT), well above the statewide average of 1.55.

Crawford County, which maintains 847 miles of local roads, saw 11% of those roads graded as poor and 14% of 569 bridges deemed in poor condition.

The county reported an annual average of 10 traffic deaths, with a fatality rate of 2.12 per 100M VMT.

While local officials have welcomed state and federal infrastructure funding, TRIP warns that ongoing investment is critical to reversing the trend of aging infrastructure and ensuring safety on local roads.

The report comes amid statewide debate over long-term transportation funding solutions and ongoing concerns about rural access, safety, and economic impact.

To view the full report, visit <u>here</u>.