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News

California leaders aim to mitigate traffic concerns as transportation funds expire

by: Sierra Krug | Posted: September 25, 2025

(FOX40.COM) — As California's population continues to grow, so does the state's traffic. The National Transportation Research Nonprofit recently analyzed transportation trends across the Golden State. The group released a 25-page report outlining its findings.

According to the TRIP report, California's population grew to 39.5 million people in 2025. That's nearly 110,000 more people than last year. With that increase comes heightened attention in Sacramento.

Meanwhile, legislators passed the Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill in 2021.

"25 billion dollars for highways and transit in California over 5-year period," TRIP's Director of Policy and Research, Rocky Moretti, explained.

However, that extra financial help expires in 2026, while inflation in highway construction costs has increased by 48% since 2022.

"Our focus on doing whatever the state can do to fund that infrastructure is a day-to-day issue," California State Sen. Dave Cortese said.

According to the TRIP report, 50% of major locally and state-maintained roads in California are considered to be in "poor" or "mediocre" condition. In Sacramento, 48% of local roads fall in that "poor" condition category alone.

While California's growth can help stimulate the economy, it is also contributing to rising levels of congestion and even highway safety concerns. The TRIP report found that from 2014 to 2024, 24% more people died in traffic-related incidents across the state.

"We must ensure that we're planning safe, modern and resilient systems," Sen. Cortese said. "And that reflects our values as Californians."

State leaders said the TRIP report's slogan, "Keeping California Moving," is a top priority. From bikes and scooters to cars and trains, officials also addressed the ongoing conflict with the White House. The Trump administration is withholding money to bolster high-speed rail in the Central Valley.

"I have seen some frustration around the withdrawal of funds of high-speed rail, because I think that California is an economic engine as being the fourth largest economy," California State Assemblywoman Lori Wilson remarked. "So when you hurt California, you hurt the country."

To view the report, in full, click here.