

KXAN

Austin households saving \$2,301 yearly with Texas transportation funds

by: [Erica Brennes](#)

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AUSTIN (KXAN) — Texas voters overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment in 2014 and 2015 that funneled money for transportation.

A decade later, data shows it's saving people in Austin more than \$2,000 per household.

While Texans may not agree on everything, it seems the majority agree on one thing: sitting in traffic is not fun. And 80% of voters decided they wanted money to go toward improving roads.

“10 years ago, it didn't seem like it was that long ago, but they weren't just voting on funding for roads. They were voting on more time for quality of life and better safety. So, according to this new trip report, these decisions have resulted in real results,” Nancy Cline, a Carrollton city council member, said.

Prop 1 in 2014 and Prop 7 in 2015 redirected portions of state oil and gas taxes, sales taxes, and motor vehicle taxes into the State Highway Fund, which meant more dollars for road construction, like new bridges, relieving congestion, and even transportation-related debt.

“TRIP estimates that the average Austin household is saving \$2,301 annually as a result of driving on safer, less congested roads that are better maintained,” said Rocky Moretti, the director of policy & research of TRIP.

TRIP, a national transportation research nonprofit, released a [report](#) that found the average Austin area rush hour trip is taking 27% longer today than a decade ago, but said without the improvements from this funding, it would be taking 43% longer.

“The result of that is that the average Austin household is spending 47 hours less annually stuck in traffic congestion due to these improvements,” said Moretti.

While the state is big, with big transportation needs and goals, the propositions have put \$40 billion into transportation funding in Texas.

Improved pavement conditions as a result of increased transportation funding save the average Austin household \$151 each year in vehicle operating costs.