New York road conditions cost drivers billions, Binghamton motorists pay more than $1,000 annually

TRIP REPORTS SHOWS HOW BAD ROADS COULD COST YOU 12 NEWS 4:03 14°

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BINGHAMTON, N.Y. (WBNG)— New York drivers are paying billions of dollars annually due to poor road conditions, according to a newly released TRIP report.

The report found that rough, congested roads lacking safety features cost motorists around $40.3 billion per year statewide. In Binghamton, drivers pay nearly $1,800 in extra vehicle operating costs as a result of driving on these roads.

Infrastructure needs exceed $100 billion

The report also found that many roads lack proper maintenance and infrastructure investment.

"New York's local roads and bridges face over $100 billion in unmet needs. Costs that grow when maintenance is delayed. Properly funded maintenance generates tremendous long-term savings. It costs five times more to rebuild bridges and 16 times more to replace pavement than to preserve them," said James Dussing, President of the New York State Highway Superintendents Association.

On top of financing and gas costs, poor road conditions put extra strain on drivers' wallets.

" AAA research shows it costs about $964 a month to drive a new car. That's just your financing and your gas costs. Look at the numbers from the TRIp report. It's hundreds of dollars more per month, thousands per year when you're driving on poor roads and bridges," said Elizabeth Carey, Director of Public Relations for AAA Western and Central New York.

Carey said that AAA estimates that 2 out of every 10 drivers who hit a pothole will need to pay hundreds of dollars in repair fees.

The report also found that 39% of Binghamton's major locally and state-maintained roads are in poor or mediocre condition. Around 4% of bridges are also structurally deficient.

TRIP is a national nonprofit that researches and distributes economic and technical data related to transportation. Learn more at TRIP's website.