

Democrat and Chronicle

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BAD PAVEMENT COSTS DRIVERS

Nonprofit analyzes and distributes data on transportation issues



Genae Shields

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle | USA TODAY NETWORK

Transportation research organization, TRIP, reports that

Rochester drivers lose over \$2,000 per year due to poor road conditions and a lack of safety features.

Based in Washington, D.C., TRIP is a private, non-profit organization that analyzes and distributes data on surface transportation issues to inform and promote policies that improve pedestrian mobility and safety and enhance economic development.

The organization released a series of reports on the current state of roads across New York state and the investments being made in New York state's road and highway infrastructure.

The report also includes statewide and regional pavement and bridge conditions, congestion data, highway safety data, and cost breakdowns for the Finger Lakes Region and city areas.

"Modernizing New York's transportation network is essential to protecting lives, controlling costs, and keeping the state competitive.

Smart, sustained investment is the most cost-effective way to improve safety, restore affordability, and protect the state's economic future," said Joseph Alston, senior director of government affairs for The Business Council of New York State, in a press statement.

Between 2023 and 2024, NYSDOT's capital investment in pavement and bridge conditions, mobility and safety decreased from \$3.36 billion to \$3.1 billion, an eight percent difference.

And while the need for repairs grows, 73% of state-mandated pavements need repairs of varying degrees, at an estimated cost of \$7.76 billion. Improvements to more than half of the state's bridges total nearly \$29 billion.

Report: Rochester drivers losing thousands as roads deteriorate

According to the report, nearly half of major locally and state-maintained roads are in poor or mediocre condition throughout New York state.

Here are more of their findings:

- 10% of locally and state-maintained bridges (length of 20 feet or more) are rated poor/structurally deficient.
- 45% percent of New York's major roads are in poor or mediocre condition.
- Statewide costs to drivers have increased 44% since 2022, totaling \$38 billion.,
- Traffic crashes in New York resulted in 6,529 fatalities between 2019 and 2024.

The cost of owning a car in Rochester, according to TRIP

- 31% of major locally and state-maintained roads in the Rochester area are in poor or mediocre condition, costing drivers an additional \$438 per year.
- Traffic congestion causes 41 hours of delays annually, resulting in \$1119 of wasted fuel per year for the average driver in Rochester.
- In total, care maintenance for local drivers costs \$2,198 per driver due to higher vehicle operating costs, traffic crashes, and congestion-related delays.

ROCHESTER

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Winter weather advisory issued

Rochester region can expect widespread snow

New York Connect Team
USA Today Network

Winter weather advisories are in effect across much of western and central New York as a mix of widespread snow and lake-effect snow is expected from Feb. 6 through the night of Feb. 7, according to the National Weather Service in Buffalo.

In western New York — including Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming, Chautauque and Cattaraugus counties — the advisory runs from 7 a.m. Feb. 6 through 7 p.m. Feb. 7. Snow accumulations of 3 to 6 inches are expected, with locally higher totals possible on the hillsides south of Buffalo. Winds could gust up to 40 mph, leading to blowing and drifting snow.

Across Monroe, Wayne, northern Cayuga, Oswego, Livingston and Ontario counties, a separate advisory is in effect from 1 p.m. Feb. 6 through 7 a.m. Feb. 8. Most areas can expect 3 to 6 inches of snow, with 4 to 7 inches possible along the Lake Ontario shoreline. Wind gusts may reach 35 mph, also causing blowing and drifting snow.

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MAGA vs. Bad Bunny splits Super Bowl

Phillip M. Bailey
USA TODAY

Sen. Tommy Tuberville was thrust to attend the Super Bowl in 2025 when he hitched a ride on Air Force One, joining President Donald Trump and several other Republican lawmakers for the big game.

"Happy Super Bowl Sunday," the Republican senator for Alabama and former Auburn football coach said in a Feb. 9, 2025, post on X. "Honored to be a part of @POTUS's team headed to Super Bowl LIX." But he won't even entertain attending the title tilt between the Seattle Seahawks and New England Patriots on Feb. 8.

That isn't because of any rivalry with a team, player or another coach. Instead, Tuberville's love for the sport that fueled his political career has been eclipsed by a partisan divide over the NFL, choosing Bad Bunny as the headliner for its Super Bowl halftime performance.

"Bad Bunny sucks," said Tuberville.

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