New York drivers spend billions statewide per year due to deteriorated and congested roads and bridges that lack adequate safety features, according to a new report. (Spectrum News 1/Emily Kenny)

Report: New York drivers spending billions due to deficient roads

BY SPECTRUM NWS STAFF | NEW YORK STATE
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New York drivers spend billions statewide per year due to deteriorated and congested roads and bridges that lack adequate safety features, according to a new report.

Research by TRIP, a Washington, D.C.-based national transportation research nonprofit, finds that nearly half of major roads in New York state are in poor or mediocre condition.

The research shows that drivers spend an increased amount on their vehicles because they're driving on roads in need of repair and lost time and fuel from traffic delays. Accidents on roads that lack safety features also add to the cost. Drivers spent 44% more than they did in 2022.

"The TRIP report sheds needed light on the fact that New York State roads and bridges urgently need upkeep, repair, and in many cases, replacement," said John Evers, president and CEO of the American Council of Engineering Companies of New York. "Pavement conditions continue to deteriorate, one in 10 bridges are rated in poor/structurally deficient condition, and vehicle operating costs are steadily rising."

Additionally, taxpayers could be on the hook for more as 73% of state-maintained roads need some level of treatment at an estimated cost of $7.76 billion. Needed improvements to county and locally owned bridges total nearly $29 billion.

"New York's transportation system is under growing strain as investment declines and costs rise," said Joseph Alston, of the Business Council of New York State. "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."

The full report can be found here