



Maryland drivers losing more than \$3,400 annually to congestion and poor roads

by [John Gonzalez](#) | Monday, March 16, 2026



Pothole on a Montgomery County, Maryland, road on Feb 13, 2026. (Mike Rudd/7News)

ROCKVILLE, Md. (7News) — Drivers in [Maryland's](#) suburbs near Washington, D.C., are paying a steep price for [traffic](#) congestion and deteriorating [roads](#), according to a new report from the nonprofit research group [TRIP](#).

The study finds that the average suburban driver loses more than \$3,400 each year due to vehicle repairs, wasted gas, and time stuck in traffic. [Congestion](#) alone accounts for 90 hours annually—the equivalent of more than two full work weeks—and about 26 gallons of gas consumed in stop-and-go conditions.

Statewide, nearly 30% of Maryland's roads are rated poor or mediocre, contributing to a combined \$12billion in costs for [drivers](#). This total includes vehicle repairs, traffic delays, and [crash-related](#) expenses.

Experts say these costs are the result of underinvestment in road maintenance and rising traffic volumes. Without significant improvements, drivers can expect congestion and road-related expenses to continue climbing.

The financial impact extends beyond Maryland. In neighboring [Virginia](#), poor and mediocre roads cost drivers about \$715 annually, while in [Washington, D.C.](#), traffic congestion alone wastes 70 hours and over \$1,200 per driver each year.

For residents in the DMV area, the report serves as a stark reminder that traffic and road conditions aren't just a daily inconvenience—they're a measurable financial burden affecting households across the region.

