

Report says San Diego drivers face \$3.4k yearly cost from poor road condition

San Diego drivers incur nearly \$3,400 yearly due to poor road conditions and traffic congestion, according to TRIP.



Author: Esmeralda Perez
Published: **June 20, 2026**

SAN DIEGO — Drivers in San Diego are facing significant financial burdens due to deteriorating road conditions, with the average individual paying nearly \$3,400 annually, according to a [new report](#) from the transportation research nonprofit TRIP.

“The report found that the San Diego area approximately a third of the major roads, 32 percent of the major roads

have pavements and poor condition whether they’re maintained by local or state governments these are roadways that are giving you a rough ride what that does it also tends to knock your vehicle around and that accelerates essentially how quickly your vehicle falls apart,” Rocky Moretti, the director of policy and research with TRIP said.

Moretti, noted that these rough roads contribute to wear and tear on vehicles, accelerating the need for repairs. “Just the rough roads themselves are causing an average driver \$796 per year,” he said. “That’s because your vehicle needs more repairs unfortunately doesn’t last as long as you want.”

Safety is also a concern, Moretti pointed out that the report estimates that approximately 300 people, including motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians, are killed each year on San Diego roads, costing an average of \$344 per driver in safety-related expenses.

Daniel Cruz with [Novo Repairs](#) Mobile Mechanic explained some common issues drivers face that may be linked to poor road conditions. “Lower control arms shocks, ball joints are usually the ones getting effective a lot. You get kind of a squirrely little steering wheel issue, sometimes noises, a lot of noises, and then some break some breaks, Cruz said. He emphasizes the importance of regular maintenance and recommends pre-purchase inspections for used vehicles.

In addition to repairs, drivers are also losing valuable time. Moretti shared that the average San Diego driver spends an extra 88 hours a year in traffic, wasting about 30 gallons of fuel. Congestion alone costs more than \$2,000 annually for the typical motorist in the area.