

## Sacramento drivers lose \$3,110 a year to roads, crashes, and congestion, report says

Staff (ABC10) | June 22, 2026

[California](#) drivers are paying a steep price for rough roads, traffic congestion and traffic crashes, with those transportation issues costing an estimated \$100 billion each year statewide, according to a June report from transportation research nonprofit TRIP.

In Sacramento specifically, TRIP estimates the average driver pays around \$3,100 per year through vehicle wear and tear, crash-related costs and time lost in traffic.

The report also says about 48% of Sacramento's roads are in poor condition, with another 22% in mediocre condition. Statewide, those numbers come out to 35% poor and 24% mediocre. According to TRIP, that equates to about \$885 annually for the average Californian in additional vehicle operating costs, or \$988 for the average driver in the Sacramento area. TRIP said pavement failure is caused by a combination of traffic, moisture and climate.

The report found that California's rough roads account for \$24.5 billion in annual vehicle operating costs while congestion costs drivers another \$63 billion in lost time and wasted fuel. The cost per driver in Sacramento came out to \$1,642 with 72 hours lost and 25 gallons of fuel wasted.

On safety, the report found an average of 280 people were killed in traffic crashes annually in the Sacramento region between 2020 and 2024. The estimated safety-related cost to the average Sacramento-area driver was \$441 per year.

"California will need to continue to modernize its surface transportation system by improving the physical condition of its transportation network and enhancing the system's ability to provide efficient, safe and reliable mobility for residents, visitors and businesses," the report said. "Making needed improvements to the state's roads, highways, bridges and transit systems would provide a significant boost to the economy by creating jobs in the short term and stimulating long-term economic growth as a result of enhanced mobility and access."