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New Traffic Report Released on Clark County Roads

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We all know the roads in Clark County are congested and only getting worse. There seem to be serious car accidents every day. Well, now a new study says our state roads are some of the most dangerous in the county, too.

The report comes from a national organization called TRIP -- The Road Information Program. It looked at the number of serious accidents compared to the volume of traffic.

At Spring Mountain and Jones, there were 35 serious accidents in a three year stretch. And with nearly 67,000 cars passing through there every day, that only places that intersection at number 11.

You may think the busiest roads in our valley are at the top of the list.

But when looking at the volume of traffic compared to the number of accidents... The one where you are most at risk for having a serious crash is on a 14-mile stretch of state highway 159 -- the beginning of Charleston Boulevard.

Researchers with TRIP say from 2003 to 2006, there were 72 major crashes there resulting in nine deaths. That's for a stretch of road that only sees about 1,900 cars a day.

"There are three major factors in traffic safety. One is the behavior of the driver, the decisions the driver makes, also the safety of the vehicle itself and the third is the actual safety design of the roadway," said Frank Moretti with TRIP.

He says in 2007, the number of accidents in Nevada cost our state \$2.2 billion a year. That's \$876 per person, not to mention the consequences of injury or the death of a loved one.

"Drivers are inevitably going to make errors in their driving. Poor judgment, or they may be distracted they may be impaired," said Moretti.

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He says the state must find a way to fund road improvements that will turn more accidents into fender benders instead of fatal wrecks.

Some of the suggestions from TRIP to reduce the number of serious accidents add rumble strips, widen lanes, improve road markings and enforce the seatbelt laws.

It's important to note TRIP is funded by a series of groups involved in highway engineering.