

KEY FACTS ABOUT NEW JERSEY'S INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM

The Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, which has been called the most ambitious public works project built since the Roman Empire, is the most critical link in New Jersey's transportation system.

- New Jersey has 431 miles of Interstate routes running the length of the state and connecting the state's major urban areas.
- New Jersey's Interstate system, which includes three percent of all roadway lane miles in the state, carries 20 percent of all vehicle travel in the state.
- Since funding of the Interstate system was approved in 1956, vehicle miles of travel in New Jersey have increased by 211 percent, the state's population has increased by 56 percent from approximately 5.6 million to 8.7 million and the number of vehicles in New Jersey has increased by 191 percent.

The state's Interstate Highway System saves the average New Jersey resident \$2,082 per year -- \$18.1 billion statewide -- in reduced accident costs such as medical expenses and lost productivity, the value of saved time and fuel, and reduced apparel, food, housing and transportation costs.

- By reducing travel times, the Interstate system saves each New Jersey resident 24 hours of travel time annually – 209 million hours statewide.
- New Jersey's Interstate system annually reduces statewide motor fuel consumption by 100 million gallons.
- Consumer costs have been significantly lowered by the Interstate Highway System. The cost of transporting goods has been reduced because the time it takes to make trips has been decreased.
- The following chart indicates the total annual savings per person and statewide of the Interstate system.

	Per Person	Statewide (millions)
Safety	\$52	\$456
Time and Fuel	\$385	\$3,351
Reduced Consumer Costs	\$1,645	\$14,309
Total	\$2,082	\$18,115

Traffic levels on New Jersey's Interstate highways are increasing as travel growth outpaces the addition of new lanes.

- Between 1990 and 2004, vehicle travel on New Jersey's Interstates increased by 39 percent, while lane miles on the system increased by 12 percent.
- Between 1990 and 2004, the average annual amount of travel per Interstate-lane-mile in New Jersey increased by 25 percent.

Travel on New Jersey's Interstate highways is safer than travel on all other roadways in the state. New Jersey's Interstates provide travelers with a network of highways with a variety of safety designs that greatly reduce the likelihood of serious accidents.

- New Jersey's Interstate highways have saved approximately 3,600 lives in New Jersey since 1956. This estimate is based on assuming that, if there were no Interstates, traffic would be carried by other major roads in the state, which have higher traffic fatality rates.
- The features that make Interstates safer than non-Interstate routes include: a separation from other roads and rail lines, a minimum of four-lanes, gentler curves and often paved shoulders, median barriers and rumble strips to warn drivers when they are leaving the roadway.

The Interstate system is the backbone of the New Jersey economy and has played a critical role in improving business productivity in the state.

- Every year, \$287 billion in goods are shipped from sites in New Jersey and another \$267 billion in goods are shipped to sites in New Jersey, mostly by truck.
- Seventy-three percent of the goods shipped annually from sites in New Jersey are carried by trucks and another 19 percent are carried by courier services, which use trucks for part of the deliveries. Similarly, 74 percent of the goods shipped to sites in New Jersey are carried by trucks and another 14 percent are carried by courier services, which use trucks for part of their deliveries.

Data from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the U.S. Census Bureau was compiled and analyzed by TRIP, a nonprofit transportation research group based in Washington, D.C. Information is the latest available.

TRIP
a national transportation research group