

KEY FACTS ABOUT NEW YORK'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 York's transportation system.

- New York has 1,674 miles of Interstate routes running the length of the state and connecting the state's major urban areas.
- New York's Interstate system, which includes three percent of all roadway lane miles in the state, carries 19 percent of all vehicle travel in the state.
- Since funding of the Interstate system was approved in 1956, vehicle miles of travel in New York have increased by 221 percent, the state's population has increased by 20 percent from approximately 16 million to 19.2 million and the number of vehicles in New York has increased by 134 percent.

The state's Interstate Highway System saves the average New York resident \$2,170 per year -- \$41.7 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 York resident 45 hours of travel time annually – 869 million hours statewide.
- New York's Interstate system annually reduces statewide motor fuel consumption by 414 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	\$53	\$1,012
Time and Fuel	\$725	\$13,940
Reduced Consumer Costs	\$1,392	\$26,770
Total	\$2,170	\$41,722

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

- Between 1990 and 2004, vehicle travel on New York's Interstates increased by 37 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 York increased by 22 percent.

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

- New York's Interstate highways have saved approximately 8,000 lives in New York 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 York economy and has played a critical role in improving business productivity in the state.

- Every year, \$319 billion in goods are shipped from sites in New York and another \$372 billion in goods are shipped to sites in New York, mostly by truck.
- Seventy-three percent of the goods shipped annually from sites in New York are carried by trucks and another 18 percent are carried by courier services, which use trucks for part of the deliveries. Similarly, 72 percent of the goods shipped to sites in New York are carried by trucks and another 16 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