

# The Cost You Pay For Bad Roads In Atlanta? \$1,925

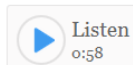
By [Tasnim Shamma](#)



TRIP director of Policy and Research Rocky Moretti (left) says the average metro-Atlanta driver loses more than \$1,900 a year because of congestion and deteriorated roads. Credit Tasnim Shamma / WABE

Are you in your car right now? If you are, you're probably sitting in it a little longer than you should be.

A new study says the average driver in metro Atlanta wastes more than 50 hours a year stuck in traffic. And they're paying more than \$1,900 a year because of deficient roads, highways and bridges.



Many of metro Atlanta's major highways and roads were built in the 1960s and 70s. They need major repairs, says Rocky Moretti. He's with TRIP, a D.C.-based transportation research group that released the study.

"I think that's what keeps transportation engineers up at night – is knowing that the public's using a

system that the bill's coming due on more significant repairs and we have an economic system that absolutely relies on that system," Moretti says.

The study comes as lawmakers are debating how to raise money for roads without raising state taxes. The Federal Highway Administration estimates that for every dollar spent on road improvements, there's a return of a little over \$5.

Seth Millican is director of the Georgia Transportation Alliance. He says he hopes lawmakers will find money for the Georgia Department of Transportation.

"They're just underfunded," Millican says. "They don't have the funds to execute the plans that they put together."

Currently, more than 50 percent of the state DOT budget depends on federal funding.