



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ST. LOUIS MOTORISTS LOSE MORE THAN \$2,000 PER YEAR DRIVING ON ROADS THAT ARE ROUGH, CONGESTED & LACK SOME SAFETY FEATURES - \$7.8 BILLION STATEWIDE. LACK OF FUNDING WILL LEAD TO FURTHER DETERIORATION, INCREASED CONGESTION AND HIGHER COSTS TO MOTORISTS**

*Eds.: The report includes regional pavement conditions, congestion levels, highway safety data, and cost breakdowns for the Columbia-Jefferson City, Kansas City, St. Louis and Springfield urban areas. Info-graphics for each area and statewide can be downloaded [here](#).*

**St. Louis, MO**— Roads and bridges that are deteriorated, congested or lack some desirable safety features cost Missouri motorists a total of \$7.8 billion statewide annually - \$2,031 per driver in the St. Louis urban area - due to higher vehicle operating costs, traffic crashes and congestion-related delays. Increased investment in transportation improvements at the local, state and federal levels could relieve traffic congestion, improve road, bridge and transit conditions, boost safety, and support long-term economic growth in Missouri, according to a new report released today by [TRIP](#), a Washington, DC based national transportation research group.

The TRIP report, "[Missouri Transportation by the Numbers: Meeting the State’s Need for Safe, Smooth and Efficient Mobility](#)," finds that throughout Missouri, one-half of major locally and state-maintained roads are in poor or mediocre condition and 13 percent of locally and state-maintained bridges are structurally deficient. The report also finds that Missouri’s major urban roads are becoming increasingly congested, causing significant delays and choking commuting and commerce.

Driving on roads in the St. Louis area costs the average driver \$2,031 per year in the form of extra vehicle operating costs (VOC) as a result of driving on roads in need of repair, lost time and fuel due to congestion-related delays, and the cost of traffic crashes in which roadway features likely were a contributing factor. The TRIP report calculates the cost to motorists of insufficient roads in the Columbia-Jefferson City, Kansas City, St. Louis and Springfield areas. A breakdown of the costs per motorist in each area, along with a statewide total, is below.

Location	VOC	Safety	Congestion	TOTAL
Columbia-Jefferson City	\$702	\$498	\$277	\$1,477
Kansas City	\$667	\$334	\$988	\$1,989
St. Louis	\$611	\$340	\$1,080	\$2,031
Springfield	\$558	\$429	\$589	\$1,576
<b>MISSOURI STATEWIDE</b>	<b>\$3 Billion</b>	<b>\$2.4 Billion</b>	<b>\$2.4 Billion</b>	<b>\$7.8 Billion</b>

The TRIP report finds that 51 percent of major locally and state-maintained roads in the St. Louis area are in poor or mediocre condition, costing the average motorist an additional \$611 each year in extra vehicle

operating costs, including accelerated vehicle depreciation, additional repair costs, and increased fuel consumption and tire wear.

Traffic congestion in the St. Louis area is worsening, causing 45 annual hours of delay for the average motorist and costing the average driver \$1,080 each year in lost time and wasted fuel.

Thirteen percent of Missouri's bridges are structurally deficient, with significant deterioration to the bridge deck, supports or other major components. This is the eleventh highest rate in the nation. In the St. Louis area, 132 of 1,903 bridges are structurally deficient.

"TRIP's report shows bad roads cost Missourians money and time in big and small ways that add up to considerable expense, stress and frustration," said Scott Charton, communications director for SaferMo.com. "Missouri voters have the opportunity on November 6 to do something to fix our roads by voting "YES" on Proposition D, which will provide more than \$400 million annually in new road and bridge funding across Missouri, including a 66 percent increase in state funding for local priority projects. Missourians can take a positive step for safer roads and safer streets by supporting Prop D."

Traffic crashes in Missouri claimed the lives of nearly 4,200 people between 2012 and 2016. Missouri's overall traffic fatality rate of 1.28 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles of travel is higher than the national average of 1.18. The fatality rate on Missouri's non-interstate rural roads is nearly two and a half times that on all other roads in the state (2.15 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles of travel vs. 0.88). In the St. Louis area, on average, 132 people were killed in traffic crashes each year from 2014 to 2016. The financial impact of traffic crashes costs each Kansas City area driver an average of \$340 annually.

"Missourians know the everyday stress of driving on worn-out roads, and TRIP's report shows us the cost in dollars. Missouri needs new investment in our infrastructure. Proposition D provides that investment, and it will pay multiple dividends in safer and more efficient travel, job creation and economic development, and saving motorists money on vehicle repairs," said Len Toenjes, president of the AGC of Missouri.

The efficiency and condition of Missouri's transportation system, particularly its highways, is critical to the health of the state's economy. Annually, \$495 billion in goods are shipped to and from sites in Missouri, mostly by trucks, relying heavily on the state's network of roads and bridges. Increasingly, companies are looking at the quality of a region's transportation system when deciding where to re-locate or expand. Regions with congested or poorly maintained roads may see businesses relocate to areas with a smoother, more efficient and more modern transportation system. The design, construction and maintenance of transportation infrastructure in Missouri supports more than 79,000 full-time jobs across all sectors of the state economy.

"Driving on deficient roads comes with a \$2,031 price tag for St. Louis area motorists," said Will Wilkins, TRIP's executive director. "Adequate funding for the state's transportation system would allow for smoother roads, more efficient mobility, enhanced safety, and economic growth opportunities while saving Missouri's drivers time and money."