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CONGESTION COSTS PHILADELPHIA COMMUTERS \$3.4 BILLION ANNUALLY IN LOST TIME AND FUEL. NEW REPORT IDENTIFIES CITY'S MOST EXPENSIVE COMMUTES AND CALCULATES YEARLY AND WEEKLY COST PER MOTORIST – AS MUCH AS \$2,300 PER DRIVER ANNUALLY

Eds.: TRIP has also produced companion reports that identify the worst commutes and calculate the cost of congestion in Harrisburg-York-Lancaster, Lehigh Valley-Reading, Pittsburgh and Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

Philadelphia, PA – Driving on congested Philadelphia roads costs area commuters a total of \$3.4 billion each year – as much as \$2,300 annually per driver depending on which route they travel. A new report released today by [TRIP](#) identifies the most expensive congested corridors in the Philadelphia area in terms of lost time and wasted fuel and outlines a comprehensive set of strategies to help relieve traffic congestion and enhance transportation reliability in the region. The TRIP report also calculates the yearly and weekly costs per motorist of driving on each of the region's congested corridors that are most expensive to daily commuters. Increased investment in transportation improvements at the local, state and federal levels could relieve traffic congestion while improving road and bridge conditions, boosting safety, and supporting long-term economic growth in Pennsylvania. TRIP is a Washington, DC based national transportation organization.

According to the report, "[The Region's Most Expensive Commutes: Congested Corridors in the Philadelphia Area and the Steps Needed to Relieve Traffic Congestion](#)," Philadelphia area commuters experience the highest levels of congestion on the following corridors:

- 1. I-676 from I-95 to I-76.** This congested corridor costs rush hour drivers 125 hours, 54 additional gallons of gas, and \$2,301 annually or \$44 weekly.
- 2. PA 611 from the Pennsylvania Turnpike to I-95.** This congested corridor costs rush hour drivers 125 hours, 54 additional gallons of gas, and \$2,301 annually or \$44 weekly.
- 3. US 422 from US 202 to North of Egypt Road.** This congested corridor costs rush hour drivers 67 hours, 29 additional gallons of gas, and \$1,227 annually or \$24 weekly.
- 4. I-76 from I-676 to Belmont Ave.** This congested corridor costs rush hour drivers 58 hours, 25 additional gallons of gas, and \$1,074 annually or \$21 weekly.
- 5. I-95 from Betsy Ross Bridge—Aramingo Ave. to I-676-Spring Garden St.** This congested corridor costs rush hour drivers 58 hours, 25 additional gallons of gas, and \$1,074 annually or \$21 weekly.
- 6. US 202 from Swedesford Road to PA 401.** This congested corridor costs rush hour drivers 58 hours, 25 additional gallons of gas, and \$1,074 annually or \$21 weekly.
- 7. US 1 from the Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-276) to I-76.** This congested corridor costs rush hour drivers 58 hours, 25 additional gallons of gas, and \$1,074 annually or 21 hours weekly.

8. **I-76 from Hollow Road to Matsonford Road (West side of I-476 interchange).** This congested corridor costs rush hour drivers 50 hours, 21 additional gallons of gas, and \$921 annually or \$18 weekly.
9. **I-76 from Matsonford Road to the Pennsylvania Turnpike.** This congested corridor costs rush hour drivers 50 hours, 21 additional gallons of gas, and \$921 annually or \$18 weekly.
10. **I-95 from Stewart Ave., to the Delaware state line and portions of I-476 leading to the interchange with I-95.** This congested corridor costs rush hour drivers 50 hours, 21 additional gallons of gas, and \$921 annually or \$18 weekly.
11. **I-476 from US 30 to Baltimore Pike.** This congested corridor costs rush hour drivers 42 hours, 18 additional gallons of gas, and \$767 annually or \$15 weekly.
12. **US 202 from US 322 to PA 491.** This congested corridor costs rush hour drivers 42 hours, 18 additional gallons of gas, and \$767 annually or \$15 weekly.
13. **US 322 from US 1 to I-95.** This congested corridor costs rush hour drivers 38 hours, 16 additional gallons of gas, and \$690 annually or \$13 weekly.

In total, traffic congestion in the Philadelphia urban area results in the use of an additional 76 million gallons of fuel and the loss of 156 million hours annually. TRIP calculated each route's traffic congestion delay based on data provided by PennDOT on the average time it takes to travel each corridor during peak hours and during non-congested periods. To estimate the amount of time and fuel lost annually by commuters traveling on these segments, TRIP compared travel times during rush hour and non-congested periods.

"Increasing congestion is robbing commuters of time and money at a time when many can ill afford it. Without a significant investment in Pennsylvania's transportation system, drivers will continue to waste time and fuel, businesses will lose their competitive edge and quality of life will be diminished," said Jason Wagner, managing director of the Pennsylvania Highway Information Association (PHIA).

[The Pennsylvania Governor's Transportation Funding Advisory Commission](#) found that Pennsylvania currently needs to spend an additional \$552 million annually on projects to relieve traffic congestion. By 2030 the annual funding shortfall for needed congestion relief projects is expected to increase to approximately \$1.4 billion annually, based on current funding. These projects include improved traffic management, improved traffic signalization and providing additional road and highway capacity.

"Congested roadways limit opportunities for employment, economic growth, education, recreation and social opportunities. Relieving congestion will require increased transportation funding and a comprehensive approach that includes expanding the capacity of the state's transportation system, improving the efficiency of the existing system and offering alternatives for some peak-hour trips," said Will Wilkins, executive director of TRIP.