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**CONGESTION COSTS SCRANTON/WILKES-BARRE COMMUTERS \$158 MILLION ANNUALLY IN LOST TIME AND FUEL. NEW REPORT IDENTIFIES AREA'S MOST EXPENSIVE COMMUTES AND CALCULATES YEARLY AND WEEKLY COST PER MOTORIST – AS MUCH AS \$2,900 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 Philadelphia.*

**Scranton, PA** – Driving on congested roads in the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre area costs area commuters a total of \$158 million each year – as much as \$2,900 annually per driver depending on which route they travel. A new report released today by [TRIP](#) identifies the most expensive congested corridors in the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre 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 Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Area and the Steps Needed to Relieve Traffic Congestion\*](#)," local commuters experience the highest levels of congestion on the following corridors:

1. **PA 347 and SR 6011 from Jessup Avenue to Cherry Street.** This congested corridor costs the average rush hour driver 158 hours, 68 additional gallons of gas, and \$2,915 annually or 56 dollars weekly.
2. **SR 6309 from Blackman Street to PA 315 in Wilkes-Barre.** This congested corridor costs the average rush hour driver 125 hours, 54 additional gallons of gas, and \$2,301 annually or 44 dollars weekly.
3. **Keyser Avenue from Continental Road to Market Street in Scranton.** This congested corridor costs the average rush hour driver 67 hours, 29 additional gallons of gas, and \$1,227 annually or \$24 weekly.
4. **Main Street-Blakely from Lackawanna Avenue to Gino Merli Drive.** This congested corridor costs the average rush hour driver 58 hours, 25 additional gallons of gas, and \$1,074 annually or \$21 weekly.
5. **State Street (US 6) from Weis Market to Winola Road.** This congested corridor costs the average rush hour driver 58 hours, 25 additional gallons of gas, and \$1,074 annually or \$21 weekly.
6. **Main Avenue from Green Ridge Street to St. Ann Street in Scranton.** This congested corridor costs the average rush hour driver 25 hours, 11 additional gallons of gas, and \$460 annually or nine dollars weekly.

7. **Green Ridge Street from N. Washington Avenue to N. Main Avenue in Scranton.** This congested corridor costs the average rush hour driver 25 hours, 11 additional gallons of gas, and \$460 annually or nine dollars weekly.
8. **Pittston Avenue from Birch Street to Gibbons Street in Scranton.** This congested corridor costs the average rush hour driver 25 hours, 11 additional gallons of gas, and \$460 annually or nine dollars weekly.
9. **US 6 in the downtown central business district in Scranton.** This congested corridor costs the average rush hour driver 17 hours, 7 additional gallons of gas, and \$307 annually or six dollars weekly.

In total, traffic congestion in the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre urban area results in the use of an additional 3.2 million gallons of fuel and the loss of seven 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.