

**From: The General Contractors Association of New York**

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For Immediate Release

Report Available at: [www.tripnet.org](http://www.tripnet.org)

**Lack of Funding Creating Poor Road Conditions in NYC  
Damaging Cars Costing Motorists Hundreds of Dollars in Repairs  
and Wasting More than Forty Hours a Year of Every Driver's Personal Time**

The General Contractors Association of New York (GCA), AAA of New York and TRIP, a national transportation research organization released a detailed report showing how a lack of proper funding is causing road and bridge disrepair in New York City.

Among the findings in the report, *Future Mobility in New York: Meeting the State's Need for Safe and Efficient Mobility*, was that a lack of investment in New York State roads and bridges was damaging the economy, costing jobs, forcing motorists to spend hundreds of dollars a year in repairs to their cars and wasting more than forty hours a year of each driver's personal time because of clogged roadways.

According to GCA Executive Director Denise Richardson, "New York faces a significant backlog in funding needed transportation improvements and repairs over the next 20 years. Numerous projects needed to maintain, repair and rebuild the current transportation system will not be able to move forward without a significant, long-term boost in funding at the local, state and federal level."

Richardson points out that:

- New York's statewide 20-year transportation system analysis found that the state needs to spend \$175 billion from 2010 to 2030 to maintain roads, highways, bridges and transit systems and to provide adequate mobility. But under current funding formulas, the state expects that revenues will be less than half that amount, resulting in a transportation funding shortfall of at least \$87 billion from 2010 to 2030.
- 54% of major roads in the New York City area are rated poor – the 6<sup>th</sup> highest percentage in the nation among large cities, 35% of bridges are structurally deficient, and the average driver loses 44 hours per year due to traffic congestion.
- The condition and efficiency of New York's transportation system is critical to the health of the state's economy. Businesses are increasingly reliant on an efficient and reliable transportation system to move products and services. A key component in business efficiency and success is the level and ease of access to customers, markets, materials and workers.

“Insufficient state and federal funding will leave many critically needed transportation projects stranded on the drawing board,” said Will Wilkins, executive director of TRIP. “In order to improve the state’s transportation system, ease the burden on drivers, and kick start New York’s economy, transportation investment must be a priority at the state and federal level. Thousands of jobs and the state’s economy are riding on it.”

“New York’s roads, bridges and transit systems are crumbling. We are burdened with a struggling economy and a highly-charged political atmosphere, not the best climate for developing sound, long-term solutions. But it’s time to put politics aside,” said Robert Sinclair, Jr. AAA NEW York’s manager of media relations. “Our nation’s transportation system has been taken for granted and neglected. Because of this, we face a growing barrier to America’s competitiveness in the global economy. This means fewer jobs for New Yorkers, less revenue for our state, and less opportunity for our future.”

"Continually underfunding transportation infrastructure creates a vicious cycle that compromises the safety of our commuters and undercuts the intent of taxpayer dollars. After decades of raiding state transportation coffers, we’ve been left with roads and bridges in disrepair which in turn adversely affects local economies and costs families time, money and peace of mind,” said Senator Martin Malavé Dilan, Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee.

The report also found the costs to individual taxpayers and motorists caused by the lack of road investment to be very costly.

- New York State residents incur significant costs as a result of roads and highways being congested, deteriorated and lacking desirable safety features, costing taxpayers \$16.4 billion and the average New York City driver \$1,888 annually in traffic accidents, additional vehicle operating costs and congestion-related delays.
- Driving on roads in need of repair costs each motorist in the New York City region \$638 annually in extra vehicle operating costs. These costs include accelerated vehicle depreciation, additional repair costs and increased fuel consumption and tire wear.
- Traffic congestion in the New York City area costs approximately \$951 per driver in lost time and wasted fuel. The average New York City driver loses 44 hours per year due to traffic congestion, hampering mobility for individuals and businesses and impeding the region’s economic development.
- Traffic crashes in the New York City metro area in which roadway design was a factor cost approximately \$299 per driver annually, including medical costs, lost economic and household productivity, property damage and travel delays.

According to Master Technician, Frank Vozos, the President of Astoria Auto repair, “Poor road and bridge conditions cause serious damage to cars including damage to wheel and steering alignment, tires, suspension, axels, tie rods, bumper and underbelly of cars.”

**About the GCA:**

In New York City, there is one organization exclusively devoted to the issues facing heavy construction contractors: the General Contractors Association (GCA). For one hundred years the GCA has been a strong and forceful advocate on behalf of its member contractors who build the foundations and transportation and utility infrastructure that define New York City. Acting as an authoritative source for industry, government and the region's opinion leaders, the GCA has dedicated itself to promoting infrastructure investment, private development, fair contract provisions, enhanced bidding opportunities and a safe work environment.

The web site is [www.gcany.com](http://www.gcany.com)

**About TRIP:**

Founded in 1971, TRIP® of Washington, DC, is a nonprofit organization that researches, evaluates and distributes economic and technical data on highway transportation issues. TRIP is sponsored by insurance companies, equipment manufacturers, distributors and suppliers; businesses involved in highway and transit engineering and construction; labor unions; and organizations concerned with an efficient and safe highway transportation system.

The website is [www.tripnet.org](http://www.tripnet.org)