  

3000 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 208 ● Washington, DC 20008 ● 202.466.6706 ● [tripnet.org](http://www.tripnet.org/)

EMBARGOED UNTIL Contact: Frank Moretti (202) 262-0714 (cell) Thursday, April 4, 2013 6:00A.M. (PDT) Carolyn Bonifas Kelly (703) 801-9212 (cell)

Report available at: [www.tripnet.org](http://www.tripnet.org) TRIP office (202) 466-6706

RENO/CARSON CITY AREA CITY DRIVERS WASTE NEARLY $1,700 EACH YEAR DRIVING ON DEFICIENT ROADS – A TOTAL OF $2.1 BILLION STATEWIDE. EIGHTY-SIX PERCENT OF RENO/CARSON CITY AREA ROADS NEED IMPROVEMENT, AREA DRIVERS LOSE 27 HOURS ANNUALLY IN CONGESTION

**Carson City, NV –** At a time when the state faces a large and growing transportation funding shortfall, more than half of Nevada’s major locally and state-maintained roads are in either poor or mediocre condition, vehicle travel has grown at the fastest rate in the nation, and Nevada drivers experience growing congestion and delays. In addition to deteriorated roads and bridges, Nevada’s rural roads have a significantly higher traffic fatality rate than all other roads in the state. Increased investment in transportation improvements could improve road and bridge conditions, ease congestion, boost safety, and support long-term economic growth in Nevada, according to a new report released today by [TRIP](http://www.tripnet.org), a Washington, DC based national transportation organization. The TRIP report, *“*[*Nevada Transportation by the Numbers: Meeting the State’s Need for Safe and Efficient Mobility*](http://www.tripnet.org/docs/NV_TRIP_by_The_Numbers_Report_Apr_2013.pdf)*,”* provides data on key transportation facts and figures in the state.

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| $2.1 billion | TRIP estimates that Nevada roadways that lack some desirable safety features, have inadequate capacity to meet travel demands or have poor pavement conditions cost the state’s residents approximately $2.1 billion annually in the form of additional vehicle operating costs, the cost of lost time and wasted fuel due to traffic congestion and traffic crashes. |
| $2 billion $3.4 billion | Estimates by the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) calculate that the current backlog to repair all state maintained roads and bridges in Nevada is approximately $2 billion. Under current funding, the backlog is expected to increase to $3.4 billion by 2025. |
| $1,464$1,698 | Driving on roads that are congested, deteriorated and that lack some desirable safety features costs the average Las Vegas area driver $1,464 annually. The average driver in the Reno-Carson City urban area loses $1,698 each year due to driving on deficient, congested roads.  |
| 51%56%86% | Fifty-one percent of Nevada’s major locally and state-maintained urban roads and highways are either in poor or mediocre condition. Fifty-six percent of Las Vegas-area major locally and state- maintained urban roads are in poor or mediocre condition. In the Reno-Carson City area, 86 percent of roads are in poor or mediocre condition.  |
| 2891,443 | From 2007 to 2011, on average 289 people were killed annually in Nevada traffic crashes, a total of 1,443 fatalities over the five year period. |
| 2X | The fatality rate on Nevada’s non-interstate rural roads is nearly two times higher than on all other roads in the state (1.91 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles of travel vs. 0.98). |
| 12 | A total of 12 percent of Nevada bridges are in need of repair, improvement or replacement. Two percent of the state’s bridges are structurally deficient and ten percent are functionally obsolete. |
| 137 %1st  | Vehicle miles of travel in Nevada increased 137 percent from 1990 to 2011, the largest increase in vehicle travel in the nation. |
| 1,700,829 | There are 1,700,829 licensed drivers in Nevada. |
| $1.00 = $5.20 | The Federal Highway Administration estimates that each dollar spent on road, highway and bridge improvements results in an average benefit of $5.20 in the form of reduced vehicle maintenance costs, reduced delays, reduced fuel consumption, improved safety, reduced road and bridge maintenance costs, and reduced emissions as a result of improved traffic flow. |

Nevada roadways that lack some desirable safety features, have inadequate capacity to meet travel demands or have poor pavement conditions cost the state’s residents approximately $2.1 billion each year in the form of additional vehicle operating costs, the cost of lost time and wasted fuel due to traffic congestion, and traffic crashes. Driving on roads that are congested, deteriorated and that lack some desirable safety features costs the average Reno/Carson City area driver $1,698 annually.

“The decline in gas tax revenues is leaving us with insufficient funds for proper maintenance of our roads in a timely and effective manner,” said Robert L. Crowell, mayor of Carson City.

According to the TRIP report, 51 percent of Nevada’s major locally and state-maintained roads are in either poor or mediocre condition. In the Reno/Carson City metro area, 86 percent of roads are in poor or mediocre condition. A total of 12 percent of Nevada’s bridges show significant deterioration or do not meet modern design standards. Two percent of the state’s bridges are structurally deficient. Structurally deficient bridges have significant deterioration of the bridge deck, supports or other major components. An additional 10 percent of Nevada’s bridges are functionally obsolete. These bridges no longer meet current highway design standards, often because of narrow lanes, inadequate clearances or poor alignment.

Growing traffic congestion, particularly in the state’s urban areas, threatens to choke commuting and commerce. The average commuter in the Reno/Carson City metro area loses 27 hours each year stuck in congestion.

Traffic crashes in Nevada claimed the lives of 1,443 people between 2007 and 2011. The state’s traffic fatality rate of 1.16 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles of travel (VMT) is higher than the national average of 1.11 fatalities per 100 million VMT. However, the traffic fatality rate in 2010 on Nevada’s non-Interstate rural roads was 1.91 traffic fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles of travel, nearly two times higher than the 0.98 traffic fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles of travel on all other roads and highways in the state. Roadway features are likely a contributing factor in approximately one-third of all fatal and serious traffic crashes. Where appropriate, highway improvements can reduce traffic fatalities and crashes while improving traffic flow to help relieve congestion.

“These key transportation numbers in Nevada add up to trouble for the state’s residents in terms of deteriorated roads and bridges, reduced traffic safety and constrained economic development,” said Will Wilkins, executive director of TRIP. “Improving road and bridge conditions, improving traffic safety and providing a transportation system that will support economic development in Nevada will require a significant boost in state and federal funding for road, highway and bridge improvements.”