



Analytics

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RE: The condition of Delaware's highways

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The condition of its highways and bridges is critical to the performance of a state's economy. In its latest Annual Highway Report (August, 2019) the Reason Foundation ranks Delaware 42nd among all the states in the condition of its highways.

The Reason Foundation Report uses 13 factors to determine an overall rating for each state.

Delaware receive high ratings for the structural condition of its bridges, and urban and rural arterial pavement condition. And Delaware's fatality rate per 100 million vehicle-miles is average.

Due to age, traffic and weather state highways steadily deteriorate and require sustained spending on maintenance. The more a state spends per mile of highway, the Report gives a lower ranking assuming that high maintenance demand equates to greater road deterioration.

Delaware ranks 49th among the states in maintenance and administrative disbursements per state controlled lane-mile. Maintenance disbursements are the costs to perform routine upkeep, such as filling in potholes and repaving roads. Administrative disbursements include general and main-office expenditures in support of state-administered highways.

Delaware ranks 48th among the states in the percent of urban interstate mileage in poor condition with 12.2% of urban mileage rated poor compared to a 5.2% national weighted average.

Finally, Delaware ranks 38th among the states in peak hours spent in congestion per auto commuter. Wyoming has the least congestion and New Jersey, New York and California the most.

Delaware's Department of Transportation will spend \$301 million on the state's road system this year (FY 2020). The Reason Foundation Report ranking would argue that this spending should be increased. The obvious source for more highway maintenance revenue would be the state's tax on gasoline. At 23 cents per gallon, Delaware ranks 36th among the states with Pennsylvania ranked 2nd (58.7 cents), New Jersey ranked 11th (41.4 cents) and Maryland ranked 14th (36.7 cents).

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