


[Home](#)
[CEO Hotline](#)
[Viewpoint](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[Archives](#)
[Metro.net \(web\)](#)

Resources

[Safety](#)
[Pressroom \(web\)](#)
[Ask the CEO](#)
[CEO Forum](#)
[Employee Recognition](#)
[Employee Activities](#)
[Metro Projects](#)
[Facts at a Glance \(web\)](#)
[Archives](#)
[Events Calendar](#)
[Research Center/Library](#)
[Metro Classifieds](#)
[Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)
[Policies](#)
[Training](#)
[Help Desk](#)
[Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

LA Region Continues to Lead Nation in Traffic Congestion

- Cost the region \$9.3 billion in 2005, Traffic Institute calculates

(Sept. 20, 2007) A national study released Tuesday by the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) shows that the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana region continues to lead the nation in delays caused by traffic congestion.

The TTI study also shows, however, that traffic congestion continues to worsen in American cities of all sizes, creating a \$78 billion annual drain on the U.S. economy.

Clogged streets and highways cost the Los Angeles region \$9.3 billion in 2005, TTI said. The study indicates that the region purchased an extra 384 million gallons of fuel to cope with congestion, and that travelers spent 490.5 million hours stuck in traffic.

Other TTI figures indicate that the Los Angeles region ranks first in the nation in terms of operational improvements that squeeze more capacity out of local streets and highways, and third in savings from public transportation.

These are among the findings in TTI's *2007 Urban Mobility Report* – the most detailed picture yet of a problem that is growing worse in all 437 of the nation's urban areas. The current report is based on 2005 figures, the most recent year for which complete data was available.

Congestion affects travel

Worsening congestion, the study notes, is reflected in several ways:

- Trips take longer;
- Congestion affects more of the day;
- Congestion affects weekend travel and rural areas;
- Congestion affects more personal trips and freight shipments; and
- Trip travel times increasingly are unreliable.

"Hopefully, lawmakers in Sacramento and Washington will be jarred in to action by the congestion report," said CEO Roger Snoble, calling on the legislators to "recognize the economic toll traffic takes and how investment in operational improvements, public transportation and other rideshare programs can and is making a substantial difference in Los Angeles County."

TTI's 2007 mobility report notes that congestion causes the average peak-period traveler to spend an extra 38 hours of travel time and

consume an additional 26 gallons of fuel, amounting to a cost of \$710 per traveler.

The report identifies multiple solutions to the congestion problem that, researchers say, must be used together to be effective. These include:

- Get as much service as possible from existing infrastructure;
- Add road and transit system capacity in critical corridors;
- Relieve chokepoints;
- Change usage patterns;
- Provide choices;
- Diversity the development patterns; and
- Keep expectations realistic.

"We need more and better public transportation," said William W. Millar, president of the American Public Transportation Association, noting that "only 53 percent of Americans say that they have access to any public transportation."

Pointing out that even someone who never rides a bus or a train benefits from public transportation, Millar said, "we need to make a national commitment to improve all modes of transportation. America needs and deserves a world class transportation system."