

Traffic Congestion Costing GTHA \$45/Y: Study

Infrastructure / December 19, 2024

A new study pegs the economic and social impact of congestion in Ontario more than \$50B in 2024, adding that gridlock in the GTHA is causing a 'traffic crisis'.

[The study](#), conducted by the Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis (CANCEA) on behalf of the Residential & Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario and the Ontario Road Builders' Association, states that while lost economic opportunities in the GTHA due to congestion totaled more than \$10 billion in 2024, the number rose to more than \$47 billion when factoring in the "social impacts" that diminish a commuter's quality of life.

According to the report, congestion cost the Ontario economy \$12.8 billion in 2024, of which over \$10 billion was concentrated in the GTHA. When considering the social impact cost, the study found that the figure rose to \$56.4 billion across Ontario.

The study defines the social cost as factors that increased stress, lowered life satisfaction, and reduced wellbeing due to "extended commute times" that "infringe upon time that could otherwise be spent on leisure, family, or personal pursuits.

"The Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) and the rest of Ontario face mounting challenges from worsening traffic congestion. With the region housing over half of Ontario's population, the GTHA experiences congestion that significantly increases travel times and diminishes economic productivity," the report read.

The study found that the GTHA has seen the number of vehicles on the road rise 37 per cent since 2001, compared to just 17 per cent outside the region. Truck volumes have increased "more uniformly" across the province, with a 32 per cent rise across all Ontario municipalities.

"Immediate steps to manage congestion effectively are essential to prevent further declines in business productivity and overall quality of life."