

# Ontario traffic congestion threatens economic stability: report

By Rock to Road Staff December 9, 2024

## Study reveals gridlock costs billions each year, and erodes people's quality of life

TORONTO, ONT. – The study 'Impact of Congestion in the GTHA and Ontario: Economic and Social Risks,' conducted by the [Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis \(CANCEA\)](#), reports congestion consequences are already spreading beyond the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA), with Ontario's overall impact rising to \$56.4 billion in 2024.

The study emphasizes the need for significant, immediate government action to alleviate congestion's toll on industries, workers, and households.

According to the CANCEA, the rising congestion across the province particularly in the GTHA is more than a transportation problem but a crisis impacting Ontario's economy and the well-being of residents. In the report commissioned by the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO) and the Ontario Road Builders' Association (ORBA), researchers found that traffic gridlock in the GTHA negatively impacts the region by \$44.7 billion per year due to lost economic productivity, 88,000 fewer jobs and the reduction of commuter's quality of life due to stress, health issues and time lost. The study warns that congestion could surge by 59 per cent over the next 20 years without increased infrastructure investment.

"The report's findings likely come as no surprise to everyday people and workers in Ontario who spend hours on their daily commute instead of quality time with their loved ones," said Walid Abou-Hamde, CEO of ORBA. "While we welcome and support the Ontario government's historic commitments to building and modernizing the province's roads, bridges and transit, we call on all levels of government to take immediate action by significantly increasing infrastructure spending and getting projects to market faster across all regions of the province."

In light of these findings, RCCAO and ORBA are calling on all three levels of government to prioritize infrastructure expansion by implementing the following recommendations to combat the congestion crisis:

- Increase investment in core public infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, and transit, to mitigate gridlock's significant economic and social risks. Gridlock could cost Ontario up to \$145 billion and create 558,000 jobs by 2044.
- Continue collaborating with industries to encourage innovative solutions for congestion, benefiting businesses, commuters, and families.
- Explore ways to expedite the tendering and construction of major transformative transit and transportation projects, such as the Ontario Line, Highway 413, the Bradford Bypass, the Morriston Bypass, and Highway 69 twinning.

Read the full report [here](#).