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PROBLEM

wicked
bad traffic

WGBH NEWS

LOCAL

Costs Of Traffic Congestion Highest In Boston, Report Says



Friday afternoon traffic on the Mass Pike on Thursday, August 8, 2014. (MITTNEY) / Getty Images/Boston Globe via Getty Images

By Chris Lisinski | State House News Service
February 12, 2019

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Traffic experts have long deemed Los Angeles and Washington, where roadways are crowded for most of the day, as the cities with the most agonizing driving delays. But one report that dug down into a specific metric found that Boston might be the worst of them all.

Boston was named the most congested city in the United States in the INRIX 2018 [Global Traffic Scorecard](#) released Monday, the first time the Hub received such a dubious honor in decades of the company's reports.

The change is related to a new analytical approach. INRIX's 2017 report placed Los Angeles first and Boston seventh based on the amount of traffic across a full day, but the latest edition specifically measures time lost to congestion — in other words, travel time during rush hour minus what the travel time would be off-peak.

An average Boston driver lost 164 hours to peak traffic in 2018, worth about \$2,291 in additional costs based on federal Department of Transportation estimates. Both figures were the highest in the country, followed by Washington with 155 hours and \$2,161.

"Their geography, age and density create a road network that enters a severe state of breakdown once traffic strikes," the INRIX report found.

On these metrics, INRIX ranked infamously congested Los Angeles only fifth, citing an average annual loss of 128 hours and \$1,788 to traffic.

"When people chanted 'Beat LA,' I don't think this is what they had in mind," said Chris Dempsey, director of Transportation for Massachusetts, in a press release. "Being recognized as the worst region in the United States for traffic is a tough pill to swallow."

Combining various factors, INRIX's 2018 scorecard ranked Boston eighth among congested cities around the world. Moscow topped that list with an average of 210 hours lost per driver per year to traffic.

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37%

Of jobs are within a
half mile of the MBTA

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Estimated GDP savings
in commuting costs

1.3 million

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THE STATE OF

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The Green Line Extension will serve a new community of professionals & students

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Orange, Red, and Green Line trains are being fabricated, tested, and deployed

New jobs

We are hiring a legion of experts to serve the state's growing needs



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Founded in 1974,
the corporate pass program is the
MBTA's pre-tax commuter benefit.

75%

Of employees have
access to a subsidy

40%

Of companies
subsidize

1,500

Companies currently
participating

1/3

Of the MBTA's
fare revenue



OUR PASS PROGRAM

Perq

People want more

They don't just want a pre-tax product:
they want to talk to the T

150 new companies

We've received a huge amount of interest
since our launch in late October

We're here to talk

We want your employees to get to work
and then home happy, safe, and on time



An aerial photograph of a city skyline, heavily filtered with a green color. The image shows numerous skyscrapers and buildings of varying heights and architectural styles. In the foreground, there are some lower-rise buildings and what appears to be a waterfront area with some structures. The overall scene is dense and urban. The text 'Come talk to us!' is superimposed in the center in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Come talk to us!