

## Texas Releases List of State's Most Congested Roads

by [Aman Batheja](#) | September 7, 2012 | [2 Comments](#)



photo illustration by: Todd Wiseman

A 3.7-mile stretch of Interstate 35W in Fort Worth topped a list of the 100 most congested roadways in Texas.

This is the fourth year the [Texas Department of Transportation](#) has released the list, but it's the first time a strip of highway just north of downtown Fort Worth claimed the top spot. Last year, a portion of Woodall Rodgers Freeway in Dallas claimed the dubious honor. The year before it was [a segment of I-45 in Houston](#).

Amanda Wilson, with the transportation division of the North Central Texas Council of Governments, said ongoing construction on and near I-35 is the likely reason for the road's rise to No. 1 on the list from No. 8 two years ago. She noted that the [Federal Highway Administration](#) recently granted the highway environmental clearance to move forward with an expansion as part of a larger transportation project called the [North Tarrant Express](#).

"Of course there will be construction for the next few years, but hopefully we can get that moved off from No. 1 soon," Wilson said.

The Legislature ordered TxDOT to start compiling the annual list in 2009. For metropolitan planning agencies, entities set up around the state to guide major transportation projects, the rankings can help determine how it should spend its limited transportation dollars.



"Putting this list together allows them to get a real good look at the roadways that are in trouble and most congested," said Mark Cross, a TxDOT spokesman.

To compile the list, researchers at the [Texas A&M Transportation Institute](#) used 2011 speed data from Washington-based [INRIX](#) to determine traffic conditions at different times of the day on every road in the state. The economic cost in lost time and wasted fuel on the list's highways adds up to nearly \$3 billion a year.

The list isn't just a guide to the worst commutes in the state. As road projects move up and down in the rankings, it reflects major shifts in driving patterns.

Often, a rise in congestion is a result of nearby construction projects slowing down traffic, said Tim

Lomax, a researcher with the Transportation Institute. Other times, a road becomes more congested because of an expansion of a nearby road that feeds into it, causing both roads to draw more vehicles.

“What you see is this changing market area for trips that’s responding to available capacity and lack of capacity,” Lomax said.

One of the biggest movers on the list is El Paso's Interstate 10 from US 54 to Loop 375. [Two years ago](#), it was ranked No. 100. This year, it’s at No. 37.

Raymond Telles, the head of the [Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority](#) in El Paso, noted several factors that have probably led to the road’s heavier use, including the relocation of thousands of U.S. soldiers to nearby Fort Bliss and heavy growth in east El Paso.

“We’ve got a lot of development out in east El Paso so you have a lot more folks coming from the east into downtown,” Telles said.

It’s not all bad news for Texas drivers. While congestion is certainly increasing statewide as Texas’ population increases, some of the worst roads are becoming less clogged.

Since 2010, a strip of FM 3487 from FM 471 to IH 410 in San Antonio dropped from No. 46 on TxDOT’s list to No. 96. That the road recently expanded from four lanes to six lanes is probably not a coincidence.

A stretch of U.S. Highway 290 from FM 1960 to FM 529 in Houston dropped 13 places on the list from No. 25 to No. 38 in the last two years. Lomax attributed that shift to the end of renovations on the nearby Katy Freeway. The construction on that road had earlier prompted thousands of drivers to temporarily use U.S. 290.

“Because 290 was so terrible, it jumped up on the list,” Lomax said. “Now that Katy is finished, I don’t think anyone says 290 is great but it’s not as terrible as it was.”

Below is a sortable table, created by data reporter Ryan Murphy, that lists the 100 most congested roads in Texas. Click on the header to sort by that column.

Rank	Roadway	County	From	To	Annual Hours of Delay per Mile	Annual Cost of Delay
1	IH 35W	Tarrant	IH 30	SH 183	586664	\$45.75 million
2	IH 635	Dallas	IH 35E	US 75	584499	\$109.71 million
3	IH 45	Harris	IH 610	SL 8	581974	\$116.49 million
4	IH 35	Travis	SH 71	US 183	559380	\$110.25 million
5	SS 366 Woodall Rodgers Fwy	Dallas	N Industrial Blvd.	US 75	536710	\$27.6 million
6	US 75	Dallas	IH 635	SS 366 Woodall Rodgers Fwy	524990	\$104.45 million
7	US 59	Harris	IH 10	SH 288	504254	\$38.13 million
8	US 59	Harris	SH 288	IH 610	484884	\$56.32 million
9	IH 35E	Dallas	IH 30	SH 183	468851	\$54.99 million

10	IH 45	Harris	IH 10	IH 610	420478	\$31.95 million
11	IH 35W	Tarrant	SH 183	US 81	416456	\$55.23 million
12	SH 121	Tarrant	IH 820	SH 183	395715	\$45 million
13	IH 45	Harris	IH 10	IH 610	391288	\$68.08 million
14	IH 820	Tarrant	US 377	IH 35W	384643	\$23.55 million
15	IH 820	Tarrant	US 377	SH 183	362506	\$41.46 million
16	IH 610	Harris	UA 90	IH 10	353692	\$81.84 million
17	IH 30	Dallas	Jefferson Viaduct	SL 12 East	344605	\$58.68 million
18	IH 610	Harris	IH 10	IH 45	333199	\$46.81 million
19	IH 35E	Dallas	SL 12	IH 635	318631	\$21.47 million
20	US 290	Harris	FM 529	IH 610	317647	\$78.73 million
21	US 75	Dallas	SH 190	IH 635	309464	\$43.47 million
22	IH 345	Dallas	US 75	IH 30	296671	\$8.81 million
23	US 59	Harris	IH 610	SL 8	293568	\$49.68 million
24	IH 35E	Dallas	US 67	Jefferson Viaduct	289153	\$28.01 million
25	SH 288	Harris	US 59	IH 610	283532	\$28.08 million
26	IH 10	Harris	SL 8	IH 610 West	272625	\$46.5 million
27	IH 10	Harris	IH 610	IH 45	267257	\$37.52 million
28	IH 35E	Dallas	IH 635	BS 121 H	253629	\$57.35 million
29	SH 26	Dallas	Ira E Woods	SH 114	242705	\$18.42 million
30	IH 45	Harris	SL 8	IH 610	234645	\$40.86 million
31	IH 35	Bexar	SL 1604	FM 3009	223168	\$22.46 million
32	US 281	Bexar	SL 1604	Stone Oak Parkw ay	218760	\$14.16 million
33	IH 35	Bexar	IH 410	SL 1604	213138	\$39.12 million
34	FM 1093	Harris	SH 6	IH 610	205061	\$53.85 million
35	IH 35	Bexar	IH 10	US 281	193247	\$18.1 million
36	IH 635	Dallas	US 75	SH 78	184402	\$32.63 million
37	IH 10	El Paso	US 54	SL 375	183539	\$48.48 million
38	US 290	Harris	FM 1960	FM 529	181120	\$15.88 million
39	SH 360	Tarrant	SH 183	IH 20	171556	\$42.6 million
40	IH 45	Harris	FM 2920	SL 8	166041	\$43.26 million
41	SL 1	Travis	US 183	US 290	165901	\$42.85 million
42	SH 6	Harris	Hempstead Highway	IH 10	157268	\$31.36 million
43	IH 45	Harris	FM 528 / NASA 1	SL 8	157164	\$33.18 million
44	IH 10	Harris	SH 99	SL 8	156629	\$43.45 million
45	IH 10	Harris	IH 45	US 59	151945	\$6.66 million
46	SL 12 West	Dallas	IH 35E	IH 30	151217	\$28.63 million
47	SH 183	Dallas	SL 12	IH 35E	150837	\$13.22 million
48	FM 1960	Harris	BF 1960A	1st ST E	142679	\$13.12 million
49	US 281	Hidalgo	US 83	FM 3072	141987	\$18.86 million
50	IH 35	Travis	US 183	How ard Ln	141904	\$20.8 million
51	UA 90	Harris	IH 610	SH 288	140019	\$13.17 million
52	US 59	Harris	IH 610 North	IH 10	139221	\$9.63 million
53	US 75	Collin	US 380	SS 399	138536	\$12.19 million
54	IH 820	Tarrant	SH 183	IH 30	137723	\$9.51 million
55	SH 183	Tarrant	SH 360	SL 12	135422	\$25.27 million

56	US 75	Collin	SH 121	SH 190	135017	\$36.84 million
57	IH 35E	Dallas	SH 183	SL 12	134460	\$10.52 million
58	IH 10	Bexar	IH 410	SL 1604	132922	\$20.34 million
59	IH 35	Travis	SL 275	FM 3406	131626	\$24.97 million
60	IH 410	Bexar	IH 10	US 281	130091	\$13.76 million
61	SH 121	Dallas	BS 121 H	SH 114	130002	\$14.14 million
62	SH 183	Tarrant	SH 121	SH 360	128742	\$9.99 million
63	FM 659	El Paso	Montwood Dr	FM 76	124173	\$12.95 million
64	SH 288	Harris	IH 610	SL 8	123136	\$15.37 million
65	FM 2499	Denton	FM 407	FM 2181	119830	\$9.41 million
66	Eldridge	Harris	FM 1093	Memorial Dr	116444	\$8.61 million
67	SL 12	Dallas	SS 348	US 75	115962	\$19.77 million
68	SL 343	Travis	US 290	IH 35	114722	\$12.17 million
69	IH 35	Bexar	US 281	IH 410	113937	\$13.81 million
70	IH 35E	Denton	BS 121 H	SL 288	113160	\$34.92 million
71	FM 1281	El Paso	FM 76	Darrington	112535	\$12.13 million
72	SH 114	Tarrant	US 377	Precinct Line Road	112185	\$7.31 million
73	FM 1960	Harris	IH 45	Mills	109272	\$20.35 million
74	IH 635	Dallas	SH 78	IH 20	108481	\$29.79 million
75	FM 529	Harris	SH 6	US 290	108090	\$11.04 million
76	Nolana	Hidalgo	FM 2220	FM 2061	107293	\$6.98 million
77	SL 345	Bexar	IH 410	IH 10	107156	\$10.11 million
78	IH 610	Harris	FM 521	UA 90	107048	\$4.75 million
79	IH 35W	Tarrant	IH 20	IH 30	107025	\$14.44 million
80	IH 610	Harris	IH 45	FM 521	105612	\$15.68 million
81	US 183	Travis	SL 1	IH 35	104679	\$9.44 million
82	US 69	Smith	Grande Blvd	Kilrush Drive	104269	\$8.94 million
83	US 59	Fort Bend	SL 8	SH 6	103565	\$20.98 million
84	Lemmon Ave.	Dallas	Inwood Road	N Haskell Road	103520	\$6.61 million
85	Forest Ln.	Dallas	Dallas North Tollway	SH 78	103063	\$21.2 million
86	IH 30	Tarrant	IH 820	SH 360	102754	\$22.41 million
87	Matlock	Tarrant	FM 157	W Sublett Road	100421	\$9.52 million
88	SH 6	Fort Bend	IH 10	US 59	99550	\$32.35 million
89	SL 12	Dallas	US 75	SS 244	99355	\$7.52 million
90	IH 20	Tarrant	IH 35W	US 287	98596	\$12.43 million
91	Coit	Collin	W Spring Creek Pkwy	Forest Lane	98353	\$21.23 million
92	SH 289	Dallas	SH 121	IH 635	97030	\$27.76 million
93	FM 157	Tarrant	SH 180	IH 20	96297	\$9.61 million
94	IH 30	Dallas	SL 12	FM 740	95240	\$28.91 million
95	Slaughter Ln.	Travis	Brodie Ln	SL 275	94699	\$8.04 million
96	FM 3487	Bexar	FM 471	IH 410	94636	\$6.59 million
97	US 83	Webb	San Eduardo Avenue	Mangana-Hein Road	93507	\$12.27 million
98	SL 12	Dallas	IH 30	SH 408	92417	\$3.33 million
99	SH 16	Bexar	0.14 mile north SL 1604	IH 410	92105	\$13.82 million
100	IH 35E	Denton	IH 35W	SL 288	91345	\$7.28 million

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