

Transportation Sidebar

ASCE America's Infrastructure Report Card

Every four years, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) assess the condition and performance of the nation's infrastructure. Each category is evaluated based on capacity, condition, funding, future need, operation and maintenance, public safety, resilience, and innovation. Each state is assigned a letter grade from A to F for each infrastructure category. Then an overall state Grade Point Average (GPA) is determined from the various infrastructure category grades. The Infrastructure Categories can include:

- Aviation, Bridges, Broadband, Dams, Drinking Water, Energy, Hazardous Waste, Inland Waterways, Levees, Public Parks, Ports, Rail, Roads, Schools, Solid Waste, Stormwater, Transit and Wastewater.

Colorado

- Colorado's most recent ASCE 2020 Infrastructure Report card gave Colorado a C-.
- Colorado's Infrastructure Categories are Aviation, Bridges, Dams, Drinking Water, Energy, Hazardous Waste, Levees, Public Parks, Rail, Roads, Schools, Solid Waste, Transit and Wastewater.
- The categories relevant to Transportation received the following Grades:
 - Aviation = B (Good, Adequate for now)
 - Colorado's aviation grade received a B, which means the runway pavements are in good condition, airports are receiving regular maintenance, and most of the communities in Colorado have adequate access to airports. Colorado's aviation grade far exceeds the nation's D+.
 - Roads = C- (Less than Mediocre, Requires Attention)
 - Colorado's roads received a C- for our roads and C+ for bridges. Our roads and bridges are one of the most difficult in the nation to build and maintain due to the number of mountain passes, elevation changes and weather conditions. In Colorado, 44% of our roads are in good condition compared to the nation's average of 28%. Only 5.4% of our bridges are rated structurally deficient compared to the nation's 8.4%.
 - Bridges = C+ (A little better than Mediocre, Requires Attention)
 - Even though Colorado roads and bridges are some of the costliest to maintain in the country, our drivers pay approximately 13% less than the national average per gallon in gas taxes, which means less available budget for the state, counties, and cities to operate, maintain, expand, and innovate Colorado's roadways. This also means additional costs to

individual drivers for additional road repairs, traffic crashes and time lost in congestion.

- Rail = B- (Less than Good, Adequate for now)
- Transit = C- (Less than Mediocre, Requires Attention)
 - Colorado's rail received a B- grade compared to the nation's B. Our transit grade came in at C- while the nation's grade scored at D-. Colorado's heavy freight and passenger rails are mostly privately funded and meet acceptable standards. Our transit network has made positive strides, but for transit service to grow and improve, sustainable funding is needed.

Summary

- Colorado's transportation infrastructure is in mediocre condition but is generally in line with our comparison city's states, where Texas scored a C, and Idaho scored a C-. New Mexico did not have a report card grade but shows 5.5% of their bridges are structurally deficient. Colorado is also right in line with the nation's grade of C-.
- To keep Colorado's transportation infrastructures from falling into the poor or failing grade, local and state officials need to prioritize infrastructure during local and state budget discussions.
- A strong and robust transit, multimodal planning and funding is needed to create effective transportation alternatives to mitigate congestion, and the cost to build and maintain increased roads and bridges.
- Educating the public to the value of investing in our infrastructure is important.