

News Release

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Contact: Alexa Lopez (202) 789-7853 ■ alopez@asce.org

Connecticut Infrastructure Earns Overall GPA of “C-” from ASCE

Investments in rail yielding positive results, but wastewater infrastructure is at risk for flooding

Hartford, Conn. — The inaugural *2018 Report Card for Connecticut’s Infrastructure* was released by the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers (CSCE) Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) today, giving five categories of infrastructure an overall grade of “C-.” The report includes an evaluation of the state’s bridges, drinking water, rail, roads, and wastewater.

Rail earned the highest grade of a “B.” Nearly 41 million passengers ride annually on the Metro-North Railroad system, making it the busiest railroad system in the country. The report notes that the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CDOT) has invested nearly \$780 million in the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Line. Contrarily, Connecticut’s roads and wastewater are in poor condition, both earning grades of “D+.” Most of the state’s roads are in poor or fair condition, as more than half of the network is over 55 years old. Additionally, \$30 billion is needed to provide roadway facilities that would meet expectations of roadway users within 30 years.

Connecticut’s wastewater infrastructure is aging and needs major repairs and rehabilitation. A \$4.6 billion investment is required to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows alone. Connecticut is also home to almost 50 sewage plants that have been identified as at “high-risk” for flooding during major storms, which is a significant concern as storms intensify and infrastructure ages.

“There are bright spots in this report, but it is clear that we must prioritize our infrastructure systems to keep our state competitive and grow our economy,” said David Chapman, president of the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers.

The report evaluated the five categories with the following grades: bridges (C-), drinking water (C-), rail (B), roads (D+) and wastewater (D+).

Other major findings include:

- 7.8% of bridges in the state are structurally deficient, compared with 8.9% nationwide, which includes some of the state’s largest and most heavily traveled bridges.

- While Connecticut has high-quality drinking water and generally well-maintained water systems, these systems are aging and need repair and rehabilitation.
- Over 3.6 million tons of freight are moved annually on 10 freight railroads.
- Poorly maintained roads and congestion costs drivers \$2.4 billion annually.

The Report Card also offers solutions to address the state’s infrastructure needs. Recommendations include continuing to prioritize investment in infrastructure during difficult budget cycles and modernizing and building resilient infrastructure to prepare for increasingly severe storms. State and localities of Connecticut should also increase investment in infrastructure to reduce costs for its’ residents down the road. Connecticut also stands to benefit from a transportation lockbox that will ensure all transportation funds are used solely for transportation purposes.

The Report Card for Connecticut’s Infrastructure was created as a public service to citizens and policymakers to inform them of the infrastructure needs in their state. Civil engineers used their expertise and school report card letter grades to condense complicated data into an easy-to-understand analysis of Connecticut’s infrastructure network.

ASCE State Infrastructure Report Cards are modeled after the national [Infrastructure Report Card](#), which gave America’s infrastructure a grade of “D+” in 2017.

A full copy of the *2018 Report Card for Connecticut’s Infrastructure* is available at InfrastructureReportCard.org/Connecticut.

ABOUT THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

Founded in 1852, the American Society of Civil Engineers represents more than 150,000 civil engineers worldwide and is America’s oldest national engineering society. ASCE works to raise awareness of the need to maintain and modernize the nation’s infrastructure using sustainable and resilient practices, advocates for increasing and optimizing investment in infrastructure, and seeks to “Raise the Bar” on engineering knowledge and competency. For more information, visit www.asce.org and follow us on Twitter, @ASCETweets and @ASCEGovRel.

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