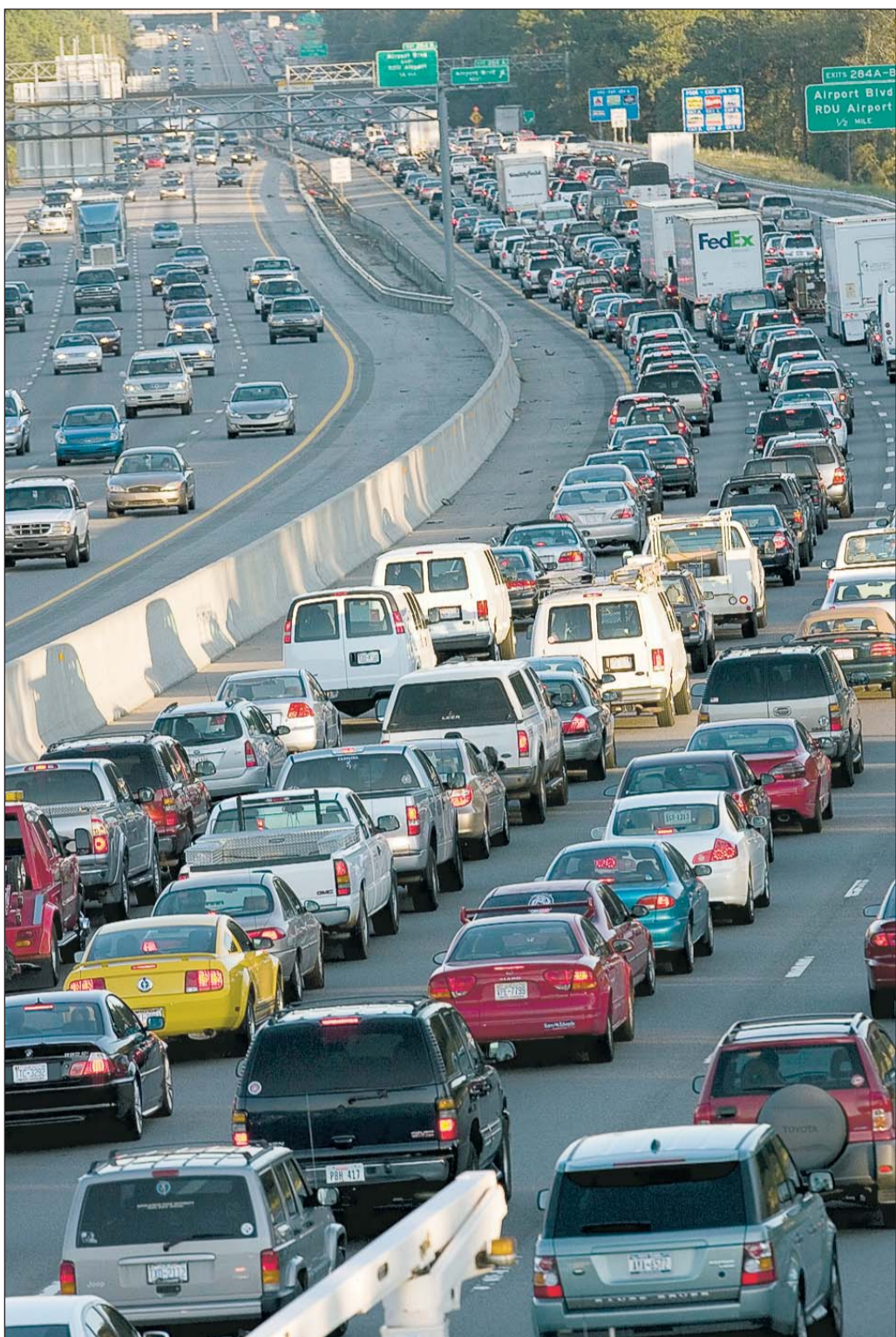


Our traffic misery is just getting worse

A new study shows that we're wasting more of our time and gas on congested roads in the Triangle.



The scene is depressingly familiar for anyone unlucky enough to be caught in the daily commute on Interstate 40 near the Wake-Durham county line. Traffic is in the creep mode in the eastbound lanes Tuesday afternoon.

STAFF PHOTO BY ROBERT WILLET

The report from the Texas Transportation Institute tracks the rising yearly costs of congestion in the nation's major urban areas.

DAILY CONGESTED 'RUSH' HOURS

6.2 hours

TRIANGLE, 2005

Triangle, 2000	5.6 hours
Triangle, 1995	5.2 hours
Charlotte, 2005	7.2 hours
Urban average, 2005	7.0 hours

GAS EACH COMMUTER WASTES IN CONGESTION

23 gallons

TRIANGLE, 2005



COMMUTER TIME IN CONGESTION

35 hours

TRIANGLE, 2005

Triangle, 2000	31 hours
Triangle, 1995	26 hours
Charlotte, 2005	45 hours
Urban average, 2005	44 hours

TRAVEL SLOWED BY CONGESTION

47%

TRIANGLE, 2005

Triangle, 2000	40%
Triangle, 1995	34%
Charlotte, 2005	58%
Urban average, 2005	63%



CONGESTION'S COST PER COMMUTER

\$671

TRIANGLE, 2005

Triangle, 2000	\$510
Triangle, 1995	\$376
Charlotte, 2005	\$875
Urban average, 2005	\$824



Triangle, 2000	19 gallons
Triangle, 1995	16 gallons
Charlotte, 2005	31 gallons
Urban average, 2005	31 gallons

THE URBAN AVERAGE IS FOR THE NATION'S 85 LARGEST URBAN AREAS
SOURCE: TEXAS TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE 2007 URBAN MOBILITY REPORT
MOST RECENT FIGURES ARE FROM 2005.