**TRAFFIC DEATHS**

Traffic deaths are 14 percent higher this year than at this time last year. That`s according to the National Safety Council. It says 2015 is on pace to be the deadliest year for drivers since 2007. Why? The council says as the U.S. economy improves, more people have jobs and are driving to them. Gas prices are also likely factor. They`re 30 percent lower on average than last year, which makes it cheaper to drive. Of course, all that affects traffic, too.

REPORTER: “The time you spent stuck in traffic each year depends a lot on your daily commute. According to the U.S. Census, the average spends 50 minutes commuting to and from work every day. Traffic makes it worse. Drivers in the 10 worst congested U.S. cities waste about 47 hours in traffic each year. That`s more than a week`s vacation time. So, what`s the solution? Experts say building our way out of congestion won`t work. In fact, studies show building bigger roads actually makes traffic worse. New road just create new drivers. Public transportation can help but some urban engineers say it won`t fix the problem. Another potential solution is to charge people to drive on congested routes. Experts believe people will continue to drive as long as it`s easy and cheap. Increasing the cost could reduce the number of cars in the road. Whatever the solution, let`s hope it comes soon. According to NREX (ph), traffic costs American families about $1,700 each year. That cost is expected to rise to $2,300 in just 15 years.”

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