

HIGHWAY STATISTICS

Delaware's Sea Level Rise Challenge

Delaware, as a state almost entirely surrounded by tidal waters, must be concerned about the predictions of sea level rise (SLR). The Department of Transportation, as steward of over 13,600 lane miles of roadway, has begun the analysis of vulnerable assets with the goal of developing adaptive policies and practices. As part of a statewide study, led by the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), it has been determined that up to five percent of the state's total roadway mileage could be affected by in some way by rising sea levels at a level of 1.5 meters (the highest SLR scenario modeled). The most significant effects will be seen on roadways near the eastern coastal area of the state, including significant areas of SR 9, SR 1, and SR 54. DeIDOT is continuing the study of these vulnerable areas and assets to get a more detailed understanding of the nature of the issues and possible counter-measures that may be initiated. For a look at the entire state under various SLR scenarios, go to DNREC's SLR maps page ([here](#)).





SR1, south of Dewey Beach – yellow indicates inundation from 1 meter SLR – shows the vulnerability of the Delaware coastal highways.

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