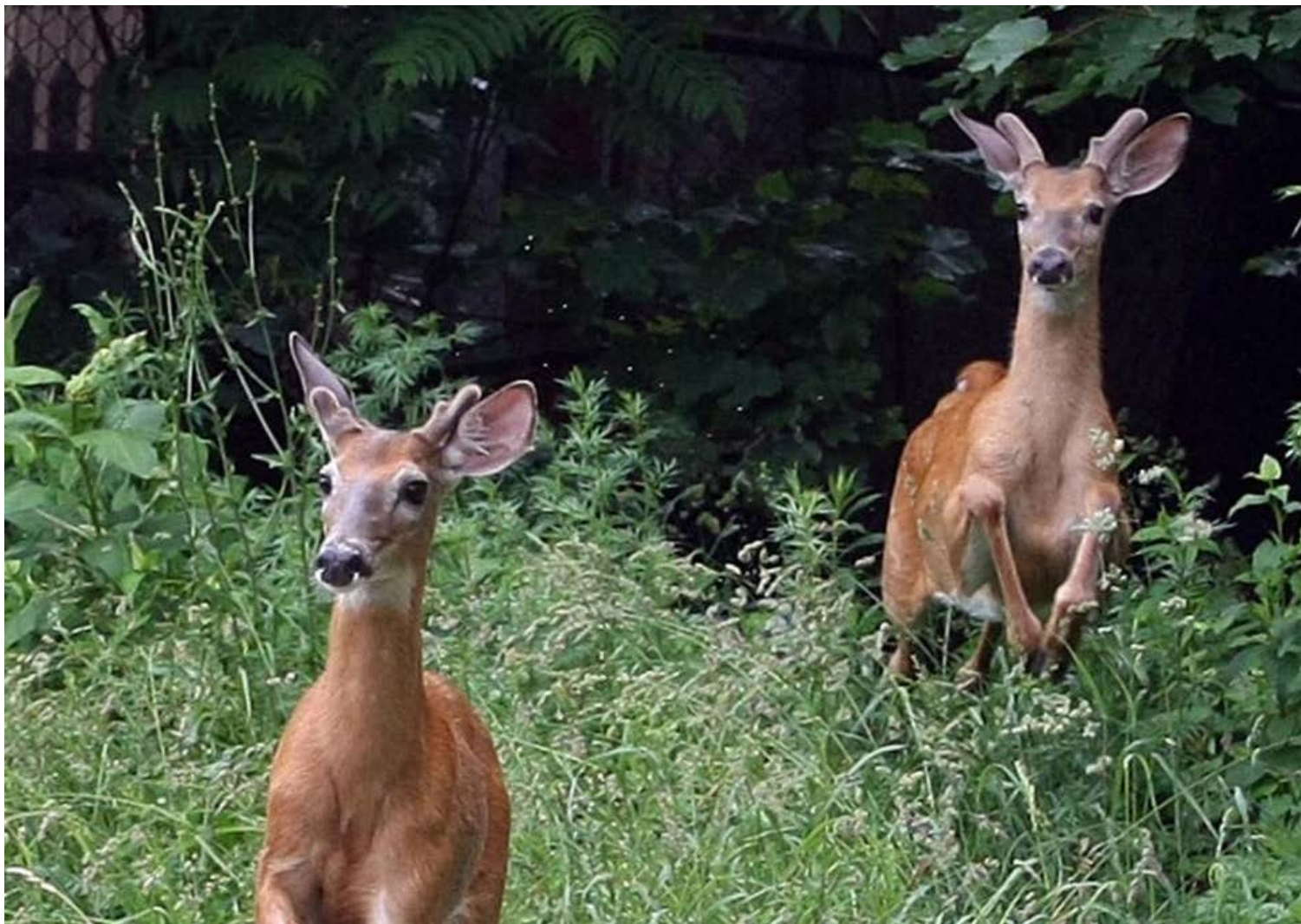


### Are these roads death traps for deer, bears, and other wildlife?



GEORGE RIZER FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

By [Matt Rocheleau](#) and [Todd Wallack](#)

GLOBE STAFF APRIL 06, 2018

Which stretches of roadway in Massachusetts are deadliest for animals?

That's a question state officials are trying to answer in an effort to not only save animals' lives, but also to reduce risks for people inside vehicles that collide with them.

ADVERTISING

[inRead](#) invented by Teads

Officials from the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Transportation recently released a trove of data, including the types of animals most frequently hit and killed by cars and where they perish.

ADVERTISEMENT



3 Steps:

1. Click "Start IQ Test"
2. Answer all questions
3. Get your IQ Score!

[official-iq-test.org](http://official-iq-test.org)

In a [new report summarizing the data](#), which cover 2010 to 2017, officials note that, because tracking road kill is a fairly new endeavor, there are significant caveats and limitations to the information they've gathered so far, which is something they hope to improve upon going forward.

Get **Metro Headlines** in your inbox:

The 10 top local news stories from metro Boston and around New England delivered daily.

Sign Up

Still, they say the data offer some potentially valuable insights that could help state officials pinpoint

areas where certain measures — new signs for drivers, for example, or fencing to steer animals away from busy roads — could reduce animal-vehicle collisions.

In Massachusetts, the estimated number of vehicle collisions with deer alone has ranged from about 7,500 to 10,750 annually in recent years, according to [data](#) tracked by insurance company State Farm, which [says](#) the national average cost for such claims was \$4,179 in the 12-month stretch ending June 30, 2017.

“We’re trying to identify those areas that are hot spots where it might be feasible to reduce those motor vehicle-animal collisions,” said Tim Dexter, a biologist for MassDOT Highway Division. “The next step for these areas that were identified as hot spots is to take a closer look at on the ground to vet them ourselves.”

General hot spots in the report include 19 roadway segments, five of them on Interstate 495.

ADVERTISEMENT



Officials plan to study those locations before making recommendations.

“We’re going to see if there’s something on the ground where it warrants signage or some other measure,” Dexter said.

Cost, as always, will be a key factor.

“We realize resources are limited and anything that can be done we want it to be done in an efficient process,” said David Paulson, a biologist with MassWildlife.

State officials hope that by releasing the data, they will raise awareness and encourage more people to report road kill and areas where animals regularly cross or wander onto roads. Reports can be [submitted online](#).

ADVERTISEMENT



---

The report came at a fairly low cost to the state, officials said.

Data collection was either done by “citizen science” volunteers or by state employees as part of their regular duties. Plus, some of the data — car crash statistics, for example — were already being collected by the state. Analyzing the data and developing the report cost about \$9,100.

One way officials hope to collect better information about animal-vehicle collisions is via a new mobile phone app available to transportation department maintenance staff to record road kill when they remove it from roadways.

The state began rolling out the app earlier this year. That, too, came at no real cost because it was built using an existing technology platform the state already uses to collect pothole repair data, officials said. One of the report’s key findings was the following list of so-called “mortality hot spots,” where available data suggest road kill may be more common.

<b>Road</b>	<b>Town</b>
Rte. 70	Boylston
I-95 / Rte. 128	Dedham
Rte. 146	Douglas
Rte. 30	Framingham
Rte. 2	Gardner
I-91	Greenfield
I-495	Hopkinton
I-495	Marlborough
I-495	Milford
I-395	Oxford
Rte. 2	Templeton
Rte. 9	Wellesley

I-495	Westford
Rte. 110	Westford
Rte. 109	Westwood
Rte. 20	Wilbraham

SOURCE: Linking Landscapes for Massachusetts Wildlife: 2010-2017 Road Mortality Summary Report

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at [matthew.rocheleau@globe.com](mailto:matthew.rocheleau@globe.com). Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](https://twitter.com/mrochele)

[Show 16 Comments](#)

### Top 10 Trending Articles

Viewed	Commented	Shared
--------	-----------	--------

- Ideas | Linda Rodriguez McRobbie: Too old to be president? Science says yes.
- Mass. authorities face steep hurdles in shutting down sex trafficking
- Road to Recovery: Drugs took their children, but not their hope that others might be saved
- The backyard mechanic who is taking on Tesla
- Julia Ruth Stevens, Babe Ruth's last surviving child, dies at 102
- Six things to know about Michael Bennett, the newest Patriot
- 'SNL' tackles R. Kelly sex assault accusations with parody of CBS interview, Pete Davidson monologue
- Yvonne Abraham | Recycling can't fix what really ails us
- Patriots could be diving into the quarterback market
- Can a former agent succeed in running the Mets?
- Why Trump lies, and why you should care
- In Boston, some specialized police units are more diverse than others
- Chart: The percentage of women and men in each profession
- School suspensions don't work. It's time for something better.
- Eduardo Nunez feels he has his legs under him again
- Munch Madness 2019: The top restaurants in Boston
- Greater Boston's first recreational marijuana shop slated to open in Brookline soon
- The movie is called 'The Post,' but it was the Times that got the scoop on the Pentagon Papers
- 100 years ago, Boston welcomed Babe Ruth
- Millennials aren't lazy, they're workaholics
- Sex trafficking is in plain sight in Massachusetts communities
- Recycling can't fix what really ails us
- First lady has a growing ease in her official role, but not politics
- At SXSW, Elizabeth Warren defends call for breaking up tech giants
- Tara Sullivan: Enough with the PED excuses
- New Orleans Saints fans need to get a grip
- As UMass makes a big bet on online education, rivals offer words of caution
- Drugs took their children but not their hope: That others might be saved

[Trump will seek more money for border wall](#)  
[Kyrie Irving, Celtics finish off Lakers this time](#)

SPONSORED BY FRANCISCAN CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



## Adoption was never a part of this nurse's plan. Then she met Gisele.

Liz Smith always thought she would have a traditional family, but when life didn't go as planned she made her own happy ending. [More](#)

**Most Popular In Metro** →

### Subscribe Now

Digital Access

Home Delivery

Gift Subscriptions

### My Account

Manage my Account

Mobile Customer Service

Sign Up For Newsletters

### Contact

Help

FAQs

Globe newsroom

Advertise

Order back issues

### Social

Facebook

Twitter

Google+

### More

ePaper

News in Education

Archives

Privacy policy

Terms of service

Terms of purchase

Work at Boston Globe Media

---

© 2019 Boston Globe Media Partners, LLC