

Frequently Asked Questions answered by the Transportation Resource Manual (2013-15)

Q: What is amount of the state gas tax?

A: The State Taxes and Fees Chapter includes a section on the "Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax" commonly known as the gas tax. Beginning on page 67 of the *Manual*, one can find the following information:

- The statutory authority for both the regular gas tax and the diesel (or special fuel) tax
- The history of the gas tax, beginning at 1 cent/gallon in 1921 through to 37.5 cents as of 2008.
- The distribution of the gas tax by program: 24.46 cents goes to the state highway program (including the Nickel and 2005 Partnership programs); State ferries receives 1.09 cents; local governments receive 11.95 cents (including amounts to CRAB and TIB).

Q: What is the amount of the federal gas tax?

A: The Federal Funding chapter of the *Manual* provides extensive information about the federal transportation funding authorization acts which contribute to the improvement and preservation of Washington State's transportation system. On page 144 of the *Manual* federal surface transportation user fees are detailed, including the 18.4 cent per gallon federal gas tax.

Q: What is the 18th Amendment?

A: Page 25 of the *Manual* includes the full text of the 18th Amendment to the state constitution, which restricts the expenditure of gas tax and vehicle license fees deposited into the motor vehicle fund to "highway purposes." Because of the importance of this constitutional protection of transportation funds, this page of the *Manual* has its own section with a tab for easy location.

Q: What Local Options Transportation Taxes are available for local governments?

A: Beginning on page 132 of the *Manual*, a three page chart summarizes the local option taxes that local jurisdiction may impose, frequently requiring voter approval, to pay for local transportation priorities.

Q: What bridges and highway facilities have been authorized for tolling?

A: A new section on Tolling has been added to the 2013-15 edition of the *Manual*. Page 283 includes a list of facilities as follows:

- Tacoma Narrows Bridge (RCW 47.46.100);
- SR 520 floating bridge (RCW 47.56.870);
- SR 167 high-occupancy toll ("HOT") lanes (RCW 47.56.403);
- Interstate 405 express toll lanes (RCW 47.56.880);
- SR 99 deep bore tunnel (RCW 47.56.862); and
- the bridge portion of the Columbia River Crossing (CRC) project. (RCW 47.56.890).

Q: How much of the Washington State Patrol's budget is funded by the Transportation Budget and how much is funded by the General Fund budget?

A: In the State Agency section of the *Manual*, on page 389, the background information reports that 75% of the WSP's budget is funded by the Transportation Budget. The remaining 25% is funded by the General Fund and includes the general law enforcement activities of the Patrol.

Q: How much does the state contribute to Transit Agency funding?

A: In the Local Jurisdictions chapter of the *Manual*, Public Transit Systems are described beginning on page 408. In that section, Calendar Year 2010 Revenues are provided for the transit agencies of the state. In that year, the state contributed \$17 million towards a total transit operating revenue of \$1.2 billion (or about 1.4%).

Q: How large is the ferry system?

A: The Passenger Modes chapter of the *Manual* includes a section on Ferries beginning on page 427. The Ferry system operates 23 vessels providing service on 9 routes to 20 terminals; in 2011 WSF carried 22.2 million riders and 9.9 million vehicles. WSF is the nation's largest ferry system.