

## Frequently Asked Questions answered by the Transportation Resource Manual

### **Q: What is amount of the state gas tax?**

A: 37.5 cents/gallon. The motor vehicle fuel tax, commonly known as the gas tax, is the subject of a lengthy section in the State Taxes and Fees Chapter. The gas tax pages include the following information:

- The revenue forecast for 2015-17 predicts \$2.4 billion in biennial revenue will be available to distribute for state and local highway purposes.
- 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: 18.4 cents/gallon. 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. Federal Transportation User Fees can be found on the last page of the federal funds introductory section.

### **Q: What is the 18th Amendment?**

A: The 18<sup>th</sup> amendment to the state constitution is codified as Article 2, section 40, and was approved by the voters in November 1944. The *Manual* includes the full text of the 18th Amendment, 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 bridges and highway facilities have been authorized for tolling?**

A: The Tolling section of the *Manual* 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
- Conditional authority for the bridge portion of the Columbia River Crossing (CRC) project. (RCW 47.56.890).

## Transportation Resource Manual 2015, 15th edition

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**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*, the section on the Patrol reports that 75% of its 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*, the Public Transit pages report that for Calendar Year 2013, the state contributed \$49 million towards a total transit revenue of \$2.3 billion (or about 2%).

**Q: How much revenue is generated from traffic infractions (moving violations) for the Transportation Budget?**

A: None. A new section on Infractions has been added to Taxes, Fees, and Other Revenue Chapter of the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Manual*. While traffic infraction penalty revenue is used for state and local general fund purposes, a portion of penalties related to parking for persons with disabilities is deposited to the state Multimodal Account. Additionally, toll penalty revenue is used to defray the costs of the toll facility on which the violation occurred.

**Q: How many miles of state highways are there in Washington and how many vehicle miles travelled are carried on them?**

A: There are 7,054 centerline miles of state highway accounting for about 9% of the state's centerline miles. However, state highways carry 55% of state's VMT of about 57 billion miles annually. The Passenger Modes chapter includes information on roads, ferries, transportation demand management, buses, special needs transportation, rail and other means of getting around.

**Q: What is the value of Washington State exports?**

A: In 2013, exports were valued at \$82 billion. The Freight Modes chapter includes an overview section with general information about freight movement in Washington State as well as more detail on the major modes: Trucking, Freight Rail, Commercial Shipping, and Air Cargo.

**Please let us know if you have other frequently asked transportation questions you'd like to see answered in the *Manual*. Send them to [Beth.Redfield@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Beth.Redfield@leg.wa.gov).**