



# Transportation Resource Manual

Project overview

December 15, 2022



## JTC Biennial Transportation Resource Manual project

RCW 44.04.300 excerpt,  
*The joint transportation committee shall review and research transportation programs and issues in order to educate and promote the dissemination of transportation research to state and local government policymakers, including legislators and associated staff.*

# Transportation Resource Manual contents

- *Transportation Budget & Key Legal Information*
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# State Taxes and Fees - Example

**REVENUE SOURCE:** Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax (Gas Tax) and Special Fuel Tax (Diesel Tax)

Restricted to highway purposes

**RCW:** Chapter 82.38 RCW (fuel tax act)  
 RCW 82.38.030 (fuel tax rate)  
 RCW 46.68.090 (distribution of motor fuel tax revenue)  
 RCW 46.68.110 (distribution of amount allocated to cities and towns)  
 RCW 46.68.120 (distribution of amount allocated to counties)

**WHO PAYS:** The tax is imposed on fuels used for the propulsion of motor vehicles on the highways of the state. The tax is collected at the time of fuel removal from a terminal rack in Washington. Gasoline and diesel distributors pay the same rate. The tax is not applicable to aviation, marine, and other specified off-road uses.

**RATE:** 49.4 cents per gallon

**ADMINISTERED BY:** Department of Licensing

**WHERE DEPOSITED:** Motor Vehicle Account (RCW 46.68.070)  
 Transportation 2003 (Nickel) Account (RCW 46.68.280)  
 Transportation Partnership Account (RCW 46.68.290) (RCW 46.68.395)  
 Rural Arterial Trust Account (RCW 36.79.020)  
 Transportation Improvement Account (RCW 47.26.084)  
 Connecting Washington Account (RCW 46.68.395)  
 County Arterial Preservation Account (RCW 46.68.090(2)(i))  
 Special Category C Account (RCW 46.68.090(2)(b))  
 Puget Sound Ferry Operations Account (RCW 47.60.530)  
 Puget Sound Capital Construction Account (RCW 47.60.505)

A portion of fuel tax (representing unclaimed nonhighway use refunds) is transferred to the following accounts:

- \* Marine Fuel Tax Refund Account (RCW 79A.25.040)
- \* Recreation Resource Account (RCW 79A.25.070, RCW 79A.25.200)
- \* ORV and Nonhighway Vehicle Account (RCW 46.09.520)
- \* Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities Program Account (RCW 46.09.510, RCW 46.09.520)
- \* Snowmobile Account (RCW 46.68.350, RCW 46.10.510)
- \* Aeronautics Account (RCW 82.42.090, RCW 82.38.183)

**DISTRIBUTION & USE:** Cost of administration  
 Refunds & transfers, including refunds of taxes paid by licensed fuel suppliers and distributors on exempt uses, tribal fuel tax agreement refunds, and transfers to dedicated accounts for the benefit of aviation, marine, and recreational off-road users.  
 State highways, City streets, County roads  
 Ferry operations and capital construction

**EXEMPTIONS:**

**Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax (gasoline) exemptions only**

- Motor vehicle fuel eligible for refunds (RCW 82.38.180), including nonhighway use, exported fuel, lost or destroyed fuel, power take-off equipment.
- Exempt sales (RCW 82.38.080(2)) include sales to the armed forces or to the national guard when the fuel is used in ships or for export, employees/representatives of foreign governments, and fuel used exclusively for racing not legally allowed on public highways.

**Special fuel tax exemptions only:**

- Dyed special fuel (special fuel not used on public highways)
- Exempt sales include: (RCW 82.38.080(1)), government-owned vehicles used for road construction and maintenance, public owned fire-fighting equipment, U.S. government vehicles, transportation providers for persons with special needs, waste vegetable oil used in biodiesel manufacture, urban transportation systems both public and private.

**TAX HISTORY:**

1921	1 cent/gallon
1929	2 cents
1931	4 cents
1933	5 cents; off-highway refunds
1935	Fuel oil at 1/4 cent/gallon
1941	5 cents on use fuel (diesel)
1944	18th Amendment to State Constitution
1949	6.5 cents/peel fuel oil tax of 1935
1961	7.5 cents
1967	9 cents
1977	11 cents
1979	12 cents
1981	13.5 cents
1982	12 cents (variable rate study decrease)
1983	16 cents
1984	18 cents
1990	22 cents (effective April 1, 1990)
1991	23 cents (effective April 1, 1991)
1999	Raised the imposition of the motor fuel tax from the distributor/dealer to the supplier (terminal-rack)
2003	28 cents (effective July 1, 2003)
2005	31 cents (effective July 1, 2005)
2006	34 cents (effective July 1, 2006)
2007	36 cents (effective July 1, 2007)
2008	37.5 cents (effective July 1, 2008)
2015	44.5 cents (effective August 1, 2015)
2016	49.4 cents (effective July 1, 2016)

**2021-23 FORECAST:** \$3,149 million (net for distribution\*)

**2023-25 FORECAST:** \$3,231 million (net for distribution\*)

# 19<sup>th</sup> Edition of the TRM, January 2023 Highlights

- Dozens of staff from agencies, STC, and HTC spend 9+ months updating thousands of data points and adding new (while deleting obsolete) information to keep the manual current
- The last full update was published in 2019, in 2021 a supplement was published
- This update included adding legislative bill actions for four years (2019-2022), which includes a new state transportation funding and revenue package
- Other new information and update highlights this year include the new Federal Transportation Act (IIJA) and a state petroleum taxes chart

Questions?