

December 2022 Newsletter



Other States Move to Replace the Gas Tax

Along with Pennsylvania's continuing research into alternative transportation funding, the [Washington State Transportation Commission](#) (WSTC) voted unanimously at its [virtual meeting](#) on December 13, 2022, to recommend replacing the state's gas tax with a road usage charge (RUC). According to [KIRO News](#), the WSTC recommended to state legislators that all vehicle owners would pay at least 2.5 cents for every mile they drive, beginning in 2027. The WSTC also recommended that drivers averaging 25 miles per gallon or higher may be able to volunteer to pay by the mile. The recommendation included waiving the \$225 registration fee for all-electric vehicles and hybrid vehicles for drivers paying for road usage by the mile. The WSTC has been conducting statewide testing and research on RUC for the last ten years. Some changes could go into effect as early as 2023, pending legislative approval.



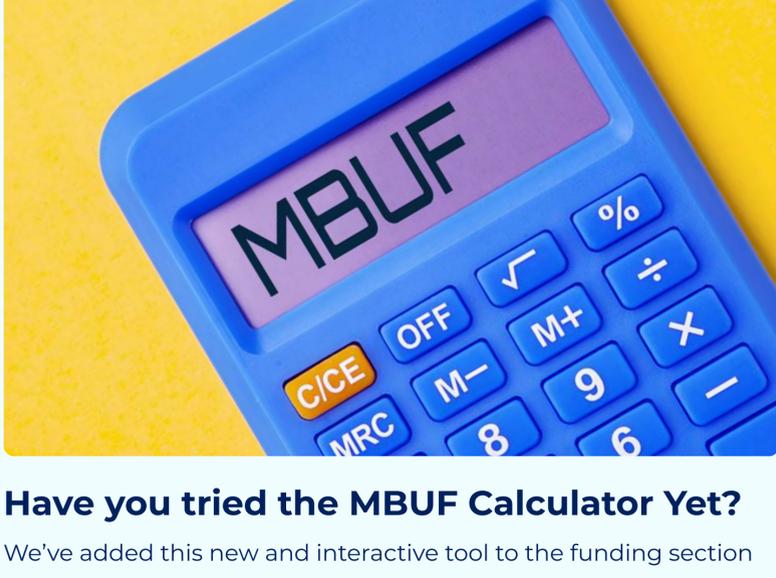
In addition to the alternative funding activity in Washington, here are some other road usage/EV happenings around the country:

- Hawaii's EV Proposal: [Hawaii DOT Advocates Road Usage Tax for EVs | Transport Topics \(ttnews.com\)](#)

Hawaii transportation officials are advocating a road usage tax starting with .8 cent per mile for electric vehicles (EVs) to address deficits in gas tax due to the increased use of EV and hybrid vehicles in the state. To learn more about the state's efforts, check out the [final report](#) from the Hawaii Road Usage Charge Demonstration, the largest study of a road usage charge in the U.S.

- EV Market Takes Off: [Believe the Hype-The Electric Vehicle Tipping Point is Now - Southern Alliance for Clean Energy](#)

Recently, the national EV marketplace hit several key milestones. During quarter three of 2022, EV sales rose 37% compared to the same period in 2021. Moreover, 14% of vehicle buyers say they definitely will buy an EV for their next car, with 22% saying they would seriously consider such a purchase.



Have you tried the MBUF Calculator Yet?

We've added this new and interactive tool to the funding section of our website. Check out the [MBUF Comparison Calculator](#) to see what you might pay under an MBUF compared to what you pay now with the gas tax. Enter your vehicle's efficiency and monthly miles driven to see what your estimated monthly costs might be if the state gas tax is phased out.

You can submit feedback on the calculator and other comments or questions through the form on the [Contact Us page](#) of our website or email us at [PennDOT Pathways@pa.gov](mailto:PennDOTPathways@pa.gov).

MBUF Exploration in a Multi-State Environment

PennDOT's partnership for MBUF outreach

In its recent 2022 annual report to the Federal Highway Administration, [The Eastern Transportation Coalition](#) (TETC), a partnership of 17 states and Washington D.C. connecting public agencies across modes of travel to increase safety and efficiency, presented its year-end update on mileage-based user fee (MBUF) activities. MBUF refers to charging drivers for the use of roadways by the number of miles they travel as an equitable way to replace the gas tax to fund roads and other transportation systems.

The report focused on TETC and PennDOT's partnership for MBUF education and outreach efforts designed to raise and gauge public awareness. New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, and North Carolina also participated, while the next phase of studies will expand to include Maryland and Georgia.

Along with summarizing TETC/PennDOT's efforts, the report includes information about peer exchanges with other states and upcoming exploratory work. You can find an updated collection of the Coalition's MBUF exploratory work on its [findings and reports web page](#).

IIJA Grant Resources in Pennsylvania

The [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#) (IIJA), also called the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) (BIL), enables investment in our nation's infrastructure, competitiveness, and communities. IIJA/BIL provides approximately [\\$550 billion over fiscal years 2022 through 2026](#) in new Federal infrastructure investment, including many new discretionary grant programs. Pennsylvania agencies, local governments, and others can compete for billions of dollars in funding across a wide range of grant programs such as bridge infrastructure, electric vehicle infrastructure, transportation safety programs, reconnecting communities, and new and emerging technologies.

To assist in understanding the various transportation programs, PennDOT has created and will continue to create Grant Alerts for the competitive grant programs as the Notices of Funding Opportunities are released. These alerts provide basic background information about the grant including eligibility and application due dates, project timeframes and PennDOT's areas of emphasis and support. PennDOT seeks to lead, partner, and provide support to projects that make the Commonwealth's transportation network safer and more efficient.

You can find the Grant Alerts on PennDOT's [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#) web page.

Transportation Trivia

Fill in the missing solution below to match the definition:

1. _____ means paying a fee to use interstates and expressways based on the distance traveled along that road.
2. _____ is a form of tolling where rates vary based on the level of traffic on the roadway.
3. With _____, an additional travel area is provided so drivers can choose faster travel by paying a toll.
4. Drivers would be charged a small fee for each mile they drive during the year with _____.

[Answers found here.](#)

For more information about PennDOT Pathways, visit our website at penndot.pa.gov/funding.

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