

From: [Steven Osburn](#)
To: [RTP Public Comment](#)
Subject: Comments to the plan
Date: Tuesday, December 16, 2025 9:30:50 AM

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My biggest concern has always been how to pay for this. Clearly, this is a big concern for your plan as well. I'm concerned about how you are approaching revenue generation though – sales tax has nothing to do with roads, property tax has very little to do with roads (just owning property does not mean you drive – and NOT owning property doesn't mean you don't drive). Of course, everyone uses roads in some capacity, so even those who do not drive use public transportation, or have packages and services delivered to them – but in these cases, they are not the main contributors to the road maintenance problems – the real reason we increasingly need more roads and maintenance of roads is because of the MILES driven by privately owned vehicles. The problem isn't to tax vehicles – (e.g., license fees), it's the MILES that the cars and trucks drive.

You said it yourself in the financial report – “Due to overall improvements in vehicle fuel economy over the years as well as other factors, federal and state gas taxes will continue to be a declining revenue source.”. I've been beating that drum for 15 years. You NEED to stop thinking of sales taxes, property taxes, and the like, and strongly push for pay by the mile (and REDUCE the gas tax, which is now at a ridiculous level). I would gladly report mileage, or even have a GPS device, to more fairly pay by the mile.

We have an RV, and get horrible gas mileage. We pay a weigh based fee as well. But if the RV is parked in my driveway, then I'm not using roads – so paying a flat fee for weight makes no sense. I should be paying for a weight-based fee based on miles driven – not for sitting in my driveway. The road usage cost is based on distance and weight – so that is how roads should be paid for. The public transportation cost is based on riders and distance – so that is how public transportation should be paid for. The ferry is the only exception – it saves a lot of miles to take the ferry, so the state benefits by ferry ridership, so having a funding stipend to support the ferry makes sense.

Please stop trying to find new things and new ways to tax – tax based on logical drivers to cost, not ancillary drivers like sales tax.

Steve Osburn
[REDACTED]