

Most citizens can point out issues with our transportation system in needing additional roads, bridges, and bike paths plus maintaining the existing infrastructure including a gesture to safety.

Of course, the real issue is how do we pay for it.

We will need to:

Raise the existing gas tax

Raise existing registration fees

and something new

Charge vehicles for the mileage driven.

The following would be a framework for mileage charges.
(The values below are meant to be an example, not a final resolution.)

Possible Transportation Tax Solution

A new form of a transportation tax that would benefit the Oregon Department of Transportation has already undergone experimentation.

The basic notion of this approach is that the more miles you drive, then the greater your contribution should be to the maintenance and creation of Oregon roads.

The Process

Drivers will allow their vehicles to have a device attached which would report the number of miles driven in Oregon.

Miles driven would result in a charge collected by ODOT.

Example: (Values for demonstration purposes.)

Assume a charge of one cent per mile driven.

If a typical driver logs 1000 miles every month, then that generates a charge of \$10 per month.

Allow the drivers to be billed monthly or quarterly.
In addition, drivers can choose the method of payment.
(i.e., check, automatic credit card charge, automatic bank draw, etc.)

Furthermore, there would be a maximum charge per year for drivers who choose to attach a device that measures and reports miles.

Limits

A suggestion might be \$240 per year which is equivalent to 2000 miles per month or a charge of \$20 per month.
(Maximum charge of \$240 per year for 24,000 miles driven.)
(Although, some months might be greater than \$20, when the yearly total reaches \$240 the additional miles would be tax free.)

Low-income individuals might receive some sort of a road tax credit when they complete their Oregon tax returns.

Option

Some drivers might choose not to attach a device that measures miles.

Those individuals could pay a flat rate of \$250 per year and not be required to attach a mileage device.

Wild Estimation

Assume 3.5 million passenger vehicles and they log 10,000 miles per year.

3.5 million X \$100 = \$ 350 Million

For an example

By boosting the gas tax and registration fees plus adding a mileage charge then ODOT could expand their current revenue.

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