



California's Looming Transportation Funding Crisis: Achieving Sustainable Funding

Presented to the Road Charge Technical Advisory Committee
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Transportation Funding Outlook

- Increased fuel efficiency + ZEV adoption = decreased transportation funding.
- \$31.3 billion loss fuel excise tax revenue from increased fuel efficiency and ACC II.
- Federal gas tax receipts will drop by \$25 billion by 2035.
- EV will cost less than a comparable ICE vehicle in 2027-2028.
- SB 1 revenue collections and projections continue to grow.

Principles of a Good Tax

Key Findings

















Essential Considerations & ComponentsPerformance Standards



CLASS	CRITERION	PERFORMANCE STANDARD
SIMPLE SIMPLE	Know what is owed	Taxpayers should be able to calculate in advance what will be owed.
	Know how to pay	Taxpayers should know in advance how to pay the tax.
ROBUST (3)	No false positives	The tax should not be imposed on parties not engaged in the target activity.
	No false negatives	The tax should not miss parties who are engaged in the target activities.
	Hard to avoid/evade	The tax should limit the scope for evasion.
	Enforceable	There should be sufficient information available to determine the fact and magnitude of liability and current compliance status of a liable party.
EQUITABLE & FAIR	Transparent	The purpose of the tax and the use of the revenues generated should be known to taxpayers.
	Just	A party incorrectly taxed should have access to an effective remedy.
	Vertical equity	Parties should pay in relation to their means/benefits.
	Horizontal equity	Parties in the same circumstances should pay the same.
	Equivalent exchange	The return on tax paid and the effort required to pay the tax should be in proportion to the value of the tax and effort.

Essential Considerations & ComponentsPerformance Standards



CLASS	CRITERION	PERFORMANCE STANDARDS
EFFICIENT ©	Low administration cost	The tax should be inexpensive for government to operate.
	Low compliance cost	The tax should be inexpensive for parties to comply with.
	Good revenue	The potential revenue should be worth the effort required to gather it.
	Supports choice	The tax should not distort parties' choices.
	Reduces externalities	The tax should encourage parties to internalize the full cost of their choices.
SUSTAINABLE © REVENUE	Enduring revenue	The targeted activity should be likely to keep delivering necessary, sufficient and proportionate revenues over time.
	Enduring instrumentality	The instrument should be likely to remain effective at gathering revenues over time.
SECURE (1)	Privacy respecting	Only necessary and sufficient personal private information should be gathered.
	Safe-guarded	Personal private information should be kept secure, and the integrity of liability, compliance and administrative data should be protected.
INTEGRATED (C)	Complementary	The tax works with and alongside other tax and non-tax instruments to optimize coverage and effectiveness without duplication.
	Interoperable	The means of compliance is usable for compliance with similar provisions in other jurisdictions.

Tools to Include

Evaluation Criteria for Replacing Declining Fuel Tax Revenue

There are features of the fuel tax that are considered positive and worthy of retaining

Favorable Features of the Fuel Tax

Revenue Generation Potential

Covers all Road Use

Applies to All Vehicles

User/Usage based

Administrative Feasibility





Options for Sustaining Transportation Funding

- Fuel excise tax
- Fuel sales tax
- Vehicle registration fees, including ZEV fees
- Kilowatt-hour tax
- Road user charge
 - Time-based
 - Distance-based
- Statewide tolling



Literature Review Options & Recommendation

Option One: Mixed Array of Fuel Taxes

 Keep fuel taxes and implement new fuel tax for electricity and hydrogen.

Option Two: Pure RUC Model

 Eliminate fuel excise tax and implement distance-based charging for all vehicles.

Option Three: Mixed Model

 Phase in RUC over time, starting with ZEVs. Keep fuel tax and registration charge for ICE; consider removing ZEV specific registration fees to maintain incentives.



Next Steps

- Polling and focus groups
- Legislative and administrative outreach & education
- Public outreach & education
- Multi-year, collaborative legislative approach
- Continued research into ZEV RUC, Hybrid vehicles, heavy-duty trucks



Questions, Feedback & Contact

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