

Ohio Revenue Alternatives Study

Exploring a long-term funding solution for Ohio's roads and bridges

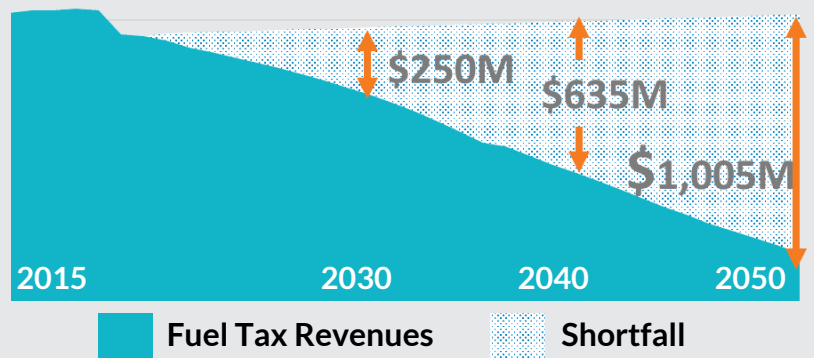
Ohio Road Funding Today

Ohio's transportation system is large and complex, made up of nearly 50,000 lane miles, more than 27,000 bridges, and includes the nation's fifth largest interstate system. To maintain this vast transportation network, Ohio relies on funding from the gas tax and vehicle registration fees, which together represent the largest funding source for local, regional and statewide transportation projects.



A Growing Problem

As vehicles become more fuel efficient and electric vehicles more prevalent, drivers are purchasing less fuel (or none at all). This is good for the environment, but it means less money for maintaining local and state roadways. With construction costs increasing and fuel consumption decreasing, a new way to fund road and bridge maintenance needs to be found.



About the Study

In 2019, the Ohio General Assembly took a step to address the chronic transportation funding shortfall by enacting a fuel tax increase. This helped alleviate—but not eliminate—the projected shortfall. The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is conducting a study to evaluate a variety of funding options to replace the fuel tax and stabilize transportation revenues in Ohio well into the future. The study is focused on gathering the opinions of Ohioans on transportation funding alternatives and conducting a public awareness campaign to communicate the problem with the current funding structure.



Choosing the right funding option for Ohio involves three critical efforts

Our Statewide Advisory Committee

An External Advisory Committee was formed to help guide the study and provide advice to ODOT on the evaluation of various alternative funding options. The Committee is comprised of 18 members, representing a broad range of interests, from business and agriculture to transit and rural communities. Members provide relevant perspectives representative of their membership and share information about the study with their organizations.



Engaging the Public

First, we are performing focused research to better understand Ohioian's needs and concerns. To do this, we are focusing on three waves of activity. Next, we'll use education and outreach to help inform Ohioans about the need for long-term, sustainable transportation funding.

FOCUS GROUPS

- 5** Focus Groups from NE, NW, Central, SE, and SW regions
- Representative** of geographic, age, racial, and income diversity

SURVEY

- 1,045** Surveys of Ohio Drivers
- Representative** sample of Ohio drivers



INTERVIEWS

- 40** Interviews with Ohio Drivers
- 48** Interviews with Ohio Business Leaders
- Diverse** mix of businesses

Finding a Long-term Solution

ODOT is evaluating 30 different transportation funding options that can be grouped into six categories. The alternatives are being evaluated on their ability to accomplish critical policy goals including long-term revenue stability and fairness. The analysis includes a quantitative and qualitative assessment of each revenue option to help prioritize alternatives for deeper analysis.

