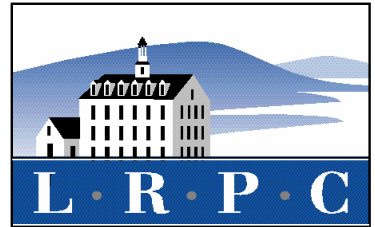


LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

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TAC ADVISORY MEETING

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

Humiston Building, Meredith, NH

2:00 - 4:00 PM

AGENDA

2:00 Call to Order and Introductions

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes (requires a motion)
Public Comment

2:10 Regional Updates

Safe Routes to Schools
Route 28 Corridor Study
UPWP
Traffic Counting Season

2:30 Draft Transportation Improvement Plan 2009

TAC Consensus on Project Descriptions
Vote to Approve Document

3:10 TIP Scoring Process Review

Scoring Criteria
Field Review Process
Supporting Documentation

3:45 Other Business

Next Meeting

4:00 Adjourn

Transferring From A Fuel Tax To A Vehicle Miles Traveled Fee

On February 26th, the bipartisan National Surface Transportation Infrastructure Financing Commission released its annual report, which unanimously recommended the gradual phase-out of federal motor fuel taxes. Instead of taxes, the commission would like to introduce a distance fee based on "vehicle miles traveled" (VMT). After evaluating numerous funding options, the commission decided that a fuel based user fee system is no longer the best option. With hybrid and electric cars on the road today, it leaves gasoline users paying for all infrastructure repairs. This way revenues can be collected regardless of what fuel is used to power a vehicle. Transferring to a VMT system will ensure that all users of the roads and bridges are sharing in the cost of repairs.



To accomplish their goal, the finance commission suggests a gradual ten year transition to a distance based user fee. Newer cars will come equipped with the devices needed to calculate the tax, while older cars will continue to pay the fuel tax until they are no longer on the road. To maintain funding while the transition is underway, the commission suggests raising the federal gasoline tax by 10 cents per gallon, and 15 cents per gallon for diesel fuel. As with all new ideas there are several issues of concern: one of the main problems is developing the technology for the VMT system. Creating a method to calculate the miles travelled in each taxing jurisdiction, and how this information would be transmitted to the tax collection agency, are large obstacles to get around. Evasion of the tax and privacy concerns should also be considered.

Source: *A Safer Road to Tomorrow*, April 2009