

TRANSPORTATION

Vehicle Miles Travelled Fee-Who Pays?

Michael M. Moore, PhD Candidate The University of Texas at Austin



Think of the year 2050

V







Fuel: Impacts to HTF



Inflation

Aging Infrastructure Increased Fuel Economy and Alternative Fueled Vehicles



Automated Vehicles

Fuel

- 97% Increase from 1980 to 2008
- Drop during pandemic
- Levels back to prepandemic miles



Fuel

- Spending outpacing revenue generation
- Continued transfer from general fund to cover outlays
- Cost of construction up 170% since 1993 federal gas tax increase



Highway Trust Fund Revenue Projections

Source: Tax Policy Center, 2020



Fees





What are the impacts to revenue generation and fairness of a vehicle mile travelled fee?



1. Data Collection

Socioeconomics | Mobility | Health



2. Cluster Analysis Which groups are using the roadways? **3. Gas Tax and VMT Fee Development** How does the revenue generation change with a VMT fee? **4. Equity Consideration** Who is impacted the most from a change in tax structure?

Fees: Results

Five Clusters										
		Ō	Ō							
	Local Commuters (w/ children)	Short Trippers (long activities)	Short Trippers (quick errands)	Local Commuters (w/o children)	Long Distance Trekkers					
Person Trips	2	4	7	2	2					
Activity Duration	573	238	54	254	420					
Trip Distance	9.1	6.3	4.2	9.1	212.35					
Trips by Car	79%	84%	84%	88%	94%					
Trips by School Bus	10%	4%	1%	3%	0%					

Fees: Results

Cluster									
	1 (n=8236)	2 (n=7428)	3 (n=16862)	4 (n=4129)	5 (n=151)	All (n=36806)			
Gas Tax	53.047	68.022	94.786	51.243	1392.536	75.508			
VMT Fee	54.358	71.269	99.437	51.556	1398.860	78.657			
Revenue Difference	\$ (1.310)	\$ (3.247)	\$ (4.651)	\$ (0.314)	\$ (6.325)	\$ (3.149)			
Percent Difference	-2.4	-4.7	-4.8	-0.6	-0.5	-4.1			









Survey Region

Income

Equity Analysis: Breakdown by Race







Equity Analysis: Breakdown by Income



Yearly VMT FeeVMT Fee- minimum Fee

VMT Fee- State DistributionMinimum Fee w. Elasticity Effects

State Distribution w/ Elasticity Effects

Conclusions



- Minimal changes to revenue generation from Gas tax to VMT fee
- Revenue distribution should be considered
- Policy Goals and Fee Structures should work in cooperation

Thank You!

Michael M. Moore

PhD Candidate mikemoore119@utexas.edu

Questions?