DISTANCE-BASED ROAD USER FEE PILOT PROGRAM

R. Scott Rawlins, PE, CPM Deputy Director / Chief Engineer Nevada Department of Transportation

INTRODUCTION

- Why?
- What will the pilot program evaluate?
- Who will participate?
- What is the timing?

Nevada has been funding highways from fuel taxes since Calvin Coolidge was president





Federal Highway Trust Fund from fuel taxes established by President Eisenhower



State and Federal fuel taxes has not been increased since 1992/1993

Fuel tax revenue per gallon the same regardless of price

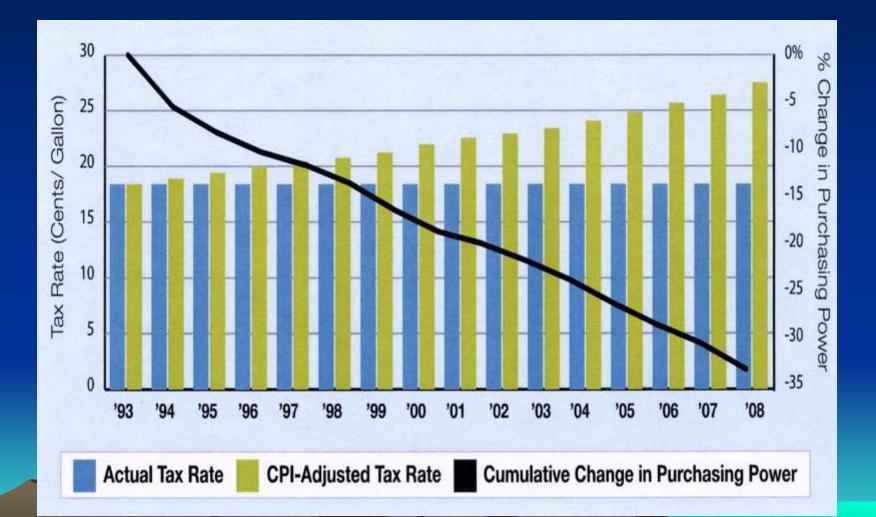
Inflation has eroded the purchasing power by 60%

The use of alternative fuels has increased and will accelerate

Federal fuel efficiency standards are being increased (will reduce revenue even more)

Fuel tax revenue replacement is necessary

Federal fuel tax has not been increased since 1993



Alternative fuels use has increased and will accelerate (Hybrid)



Alternative fuels use has increased and will accelerate (Electric)



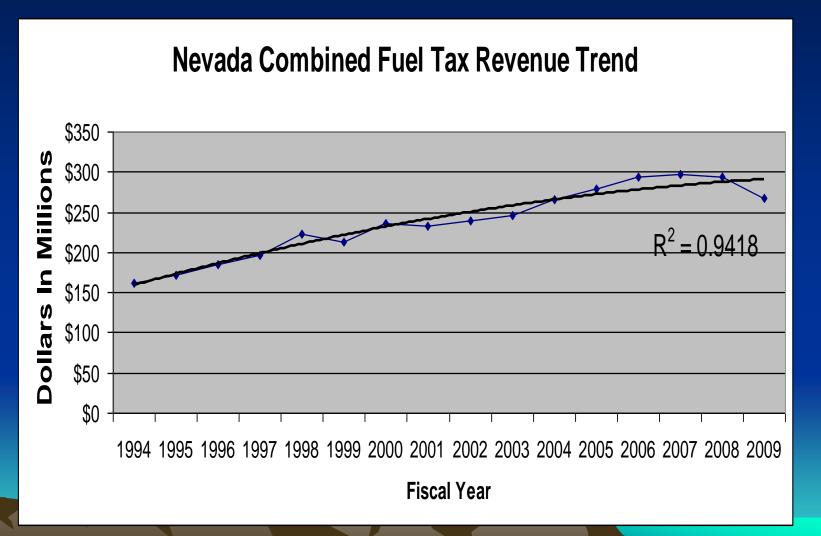
Alternative fuels use has increased and will accelerate (Solar Electric)



Alternative fuels use has increased and will accelerate (Compressed Natural Gas)

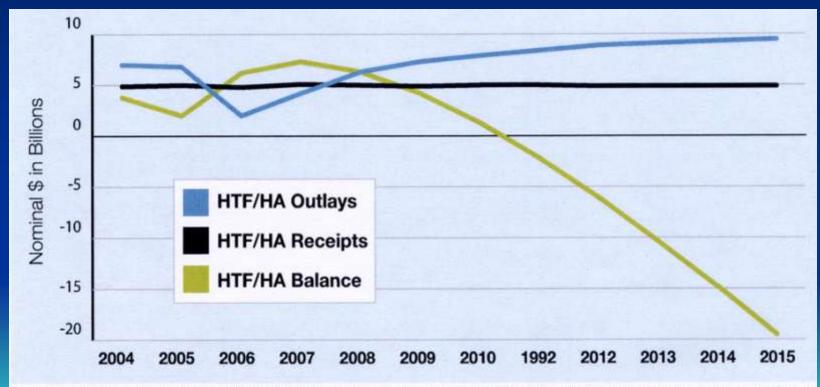


State fuel tax revenue is declining



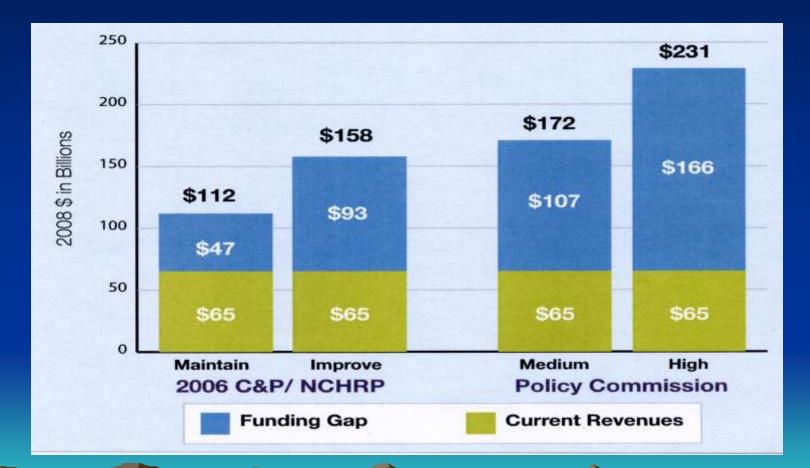
Federal Highway Trust Fund Is Insufficient

Current trends for Highway Trust Fund (HTF) / Highway Account (HA)



Source: Forecasts made by AASHTO using its federal HTF funding model and based on assumptions contained in the Midsession Review of the FY 2009 Budget.

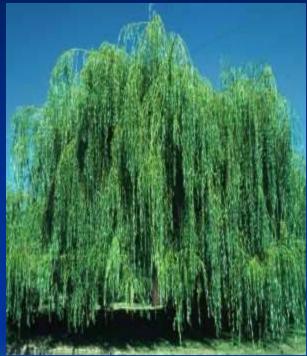
Highway Funding Gap All Levels of Government



National Surface Transportation Infrastructure Finance Commission (2006 C&P/NCHRP – Biennial FHWA Condition & Performance Report)

Environmental Initiatives are affecting Energy policies

Global Warming
Greenhouse Gases
Climate Change
Oil Independence
Cap and Trade



Green, Green, Green

Consequence of No Action!



What are possible fuel tax replacements?

Increase General Obligation Bonding
Increase Vehicle Registration Fees
Increase Sales Tax
Increase Property Tax

Increase Development Impact Fees

What are possible fuel tax replacements?

- Impose Tolls on Roads, Lanes and Bridges
- Initiate Public-Private Partnerships
- Initiate Distance Road User Fee
- Initiate Distance-Weight Road User Fee

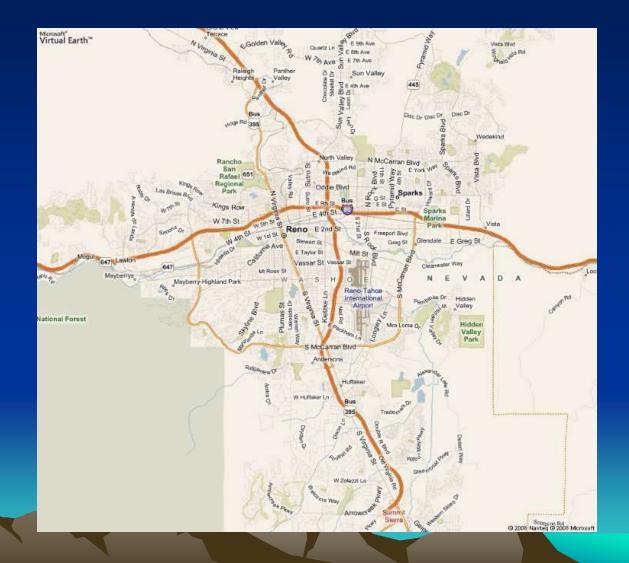
Distance-Based road user fee pilot program

• What will the pilot program evaluate?

• What is the timing?

• Who will participate?

What is the boundary?



What will the pilot program evaluate?

- Research Team will investigate:
 - Likely Technologies
 - Privacy Policy Framework
 - Equity among users
 - Institutional and Administrative Structure
- Privacy issue
 - Big Brother concerns

- Pilot Program to address the privacy concerns

What is the timing?

- Phase 1 Design Pilot Program
 <u>2009</u>
- Phase 2 Test Technology & Solicit Participants 2010
- Phase 3 Conduct & Evaluate Pilot Program
 <u>2011 & 2012</u>

Who will participate?

- Phase 1 Design Pilot Program
 - Citizen groups
 - Privacy groups
 - Environmental groups
 - Trucking industry
 - Tax payers
 - Public officials
 - Elected officials

Who will participate?

- Phase 2 Test Technology
 - Researchers
 - Citizens
 - Public employees
 - UNR students

Who will participate?

Phase 3 – Conduct & Evaluate Pilot Program
 Volunteer's (citizens, truckers, taxis, ???)
 Public agency volunteers

SUMMARY

≻Why? ✓ Present fuel tax is unreliable >What will the pilot program evaluate? ✓ Distance-based road user fee \succ What is the timing? ✓ 2009 through 2012 >Who will participate? ✓ Wide variety of people

THANK YOU

