

Transportation Revenue Forecast Council
November 2023
Transportation Economic and Revenue Forecast

Volume IV: Vehicle-Related Fees Pledged to Bonds

VEHICLE-RELATED FEES PLEDGED TO BONDS
November 2023 FORECAST
FISCAL YEARS 2023-2025

Prepared by
Washington State Department of Transportation
for Presentation to the
Transportation Revenue Forecast Council

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 Table H.1. Fuel Tax and Pledged Vehicle & Plate Related License Fees ONLY

November 2023

	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	FY 2032	FY 2033
Fuel Tax Collections												
Net Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax *	1,579,633,200	1,532,963,400	1,538,263,600	1,566,033,600	1,578,830,400	1,594,073,700	1,609,216,000	1,624,255,300	1,639,213,300	1,654,085,400	1,668,978,800	1,683,954,900
Pledged Licenses Permits and Fees												
Basic License Fees	166,709,585	162,237,571	163,925,031	166,080,758	169,160,685	172,168,436	174,558,992	176,930,219	179,270,203	181,575,146	183,838,421	186,062,866
Original License Plate Fees	10,608,471	51,624,400	58,092,454	60,287,977	61,668,752	61,849,176	61,138,457	60,760,582	60,555,278	60,390,142	60,147,043	60,038,719
Reflectivity License Plate Fees	5,394,648	5,138,835	5,107,450	5,287,555	5,520,720	5,593,379	5,511,014	5,466,427	5,441,048	5,420,383	5,391,215	5,377,307
Replacement License Plate Fees	15,339,422	40,242,788	39,528,636	40,341,720	42,961,944	43,932,996	43,145,844	42,714,096	42,461,016	42,253,572	41,967,912	41,825,256
License Plate Transfer Fees	133,990	137,399	136,320	137,260	138,250	139,280	140,330	141,280	142,260	143,110	143,950	144,750
Dealer Plate Fees	664,270	486,337	490,460	641,200	638,410	637,610	659,610	658,790	672,390	663,590	663,590	666,800
Electric Vehicle Registration Renewal Fees	7,831,799	10,309,822	14,734,820	19,979,420	58,745,090	72,647,930	88,700,530	106,628,960	126,449,550	148,127,460	170,881,130	194,047,690
Vehicles paying Weight Based Registrations (all trucks)	248,723,533	267,407,987	272,106,575	276,205,552	279,673,472	282,472,526	285,244,449	287,845,919	290,432,311	293,073,431	295,729,515	298,411,083
Vehicles Paying Varying Fees	1,261,968	1,086,289	1,087,606	1,090,769	1,093,970	1,097,209	1,100,485	1,103,800	1,107,152	1,110,541	1,113,968	1,117,435
Vehicles paying Freight Project Fees (trucks > 10,000)	22,495,847	21,391,065	21,765,408	22,091,889	22,368,038	22,590,876	22,811,515	23,018,548	23,224,345	23,434,460	23,645,726	23,858,979
Capacity Fees	34,700	33,100	32,935	32,770	32,606	32,443	32,281	32,119	31,959	31,799	31,640	31,507
Tonnage Fees	470,776	440,000	440,000	440,000	440,000	440,000	440,000	440,000	440,000	440,000	440,000	440,000
Trip Permit Fees	3,178,785	3,014,809	3,067,512	3,113,499	3,152,396	3,183,784	3,214,863	3,244,025	3,273,013	3,302,609	3,332,367	3,362,405
Dealer Temporary Permit Fees	10,279,170	13,340,650	23,418,596	27,508,200	28,446,100	28,557,700	28,062,600	27,797,600	27,651,200	27,536,100	27,365,300	27,288,600
On-Road ATVs: Vehicle License Fee	229,944	257,726	274,800	288,600	300,120	309,000	315,000	317,880	319,200	319,200	319,200	319,200
Special Permit Fees	9,146,771	9,306,840	9,446,442	9,564,523	9,659,808	9,754,153	9,842,679	9,930,678	10,020,522	10,110,859	10,202,046	10,297,628
TOTAL PLEDGED REVENUES	2,082,136,880	2,119,419,017	2,151,918,645	2,199,125,291	2,262,830,761	2,299,480,198	2,334,134,649	2,371,286,223	2,410,704,746	2,452,017,801	2,494,191,823	2,537,245,126

* Gross fuel tax less refunds

Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax (MVFT) & Vehicle-Related Fees (VRF)

Through a number of bond authorizations, Washington issues MVFT & VRF General Obligation Bonds to finance a variety of transportation projects. MVFT & VRF General Obligation Bonds are first payable from MVFT and VRF revenues, and further secured by the full faith and credit of the state. More specifically:

- The bonds are general obligations of the State to which the State pledges its full faith and credit;
- The principal and interest on the Bonds are first payable from the proceeds of state excise taxes on fuel imposed by Chapter 82.38 RCW (MVFT), and vehicle-related fees (VRF) imposed under Title 46 RCW that constitute license fees for motor vehicles required to be used for highway purposes and to be deposited into the Motor Vehicle Fund;
- The proceeds of such excise taxes on fuel and vehicle-related fees are pledged to the payment of the principal and interest on all bonds to which such revenues are pledged;
- The Legislature has agreed to continue to impose such excise taxes on fuel and vehicle-related fees in amount sufficient to pay when due the principal and interest on all bonds to which such revenues are pledged.

In reviewing if a VRF is pledged, the following general definitions are applicable:

“License fee” means a fee collected for the right to use a vehicle on public highways, including vehicle registration fees such as license fees by vehicle type, license fees by weight, license plate fees for motor vehicles, electric vehicle registration and renewal fees, capacity fees, tonnage fees, trip and special permit fees and other fees imposed as a condition of registration and operation of a vehicle on public highways. License fees do not include administrative processing fees, inspection fees, vehicle operator’s license fees, excise taxes imposed in lieu of property taxes, or fees for certificates of ownership of motor vehicles.

“Motor vehicles” definition excludes trailers since they are not self-propelled.

“Used for highway purposes” means it is deposited in the Motor vehicle fund and used for highway purposes within the meaning of Article II, Section 40 of the State Constitution.

Attached Table 1 provides additional detail on the individual vehicle-related fees to be pledged to the Bonds.

Table 1 "Vehicle-Related Fees" Pledged to Bonds

Vehicle-Related Fees	Authorizing Statute ¹
Basic License Fee	46.17.350(1); 46.17.400(1)(d); 46.17.400(1)(a), 46.16A.3052;46.17.400(1)(b)2
Original License Plate Fee	46.17.200(1)(a)
Reflectivity License Plate Fee	46.17.200(1)(a)
Replacement License Fee	46.17.200(1)(a)
License Plate Transfer Fee	46.17.200(1)(c)
Electric Vehicle Registration Renewal Fee: Electric Vehicle/ Plug in Renewal Fee	46.17.323(1); 46.17.323(4)2; 46.17.324
Combined License Fees (Trucks) and farm trip permits	46.17.355(1)(b); 46.17.325, 46.16A.420; 46.17.330; 46.17.355(7); 46.16A.330
Freight Project Fee: Vehicles with gross weight in excess of 10,000 pounds	46.17.355(6)
Capacity Fees	46.17.335(2); 46.17.340
Monthly Gross Weight Fee (Tonnage Fee)	46.17.360;
Trip Permit Fee	46.17.400(1)(c), 46.17.400(1)(h)2, 46.16A.3202; 46.17.400(1)(b), 46.17.400(1)(f), 82.38.100
Temporary Permit Fee	46.16A.300;
On-Road ATVs: Vehicle License Fee	46.17.350(1)(r)
Special Permit Fees	46.44.0941; 46.44.047; 46.44.095

1) Title 46 RCW also includes certain categories of fees that are not eligible to be pledged including: a) fees relating to trailers: basic License fee, license plate feed, and the combined license fees for commercial trailers; b) filing and service Fees; c) certificate of title fees; and d) some "other" fees imposed under Title 46 RCW, including but not limited to parking rental fee, off road vehicle dealer license fee, studded tire fee, driving record fee, and tow truck operator license.

2) A portion of these fees are "Vehicle-Related Fees" pledged to Bonds.