

INFORMATION: State Motor-Fuel Survey

February 19, 1999

Barna Juhasz (Original signed by)
Director, Office of Highway Policy Information

HPPI-10

FHWA Division Administrators

Attached for your information is a copy of the Survey of State Members that Furnish the Federal Highway Administration Motor-Fuel Data (Attachment A). This survey is being conducted by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the Federation of Tax Administrators and is being sent to the executive level, as well as the staff level for survey response. The name of the staff-level respondent in your State is shown in Attachment B.

This survey resulted from one of the recommendations made last year by the Motor-Fuel Reporting Information Committee (committee) which is assisting FHWA in improving the motor-fuel reporting system. The survey results will provide the committee and FHWA with a better gauge of State motor-fuel reporting capabilities. Based on this and other input, FHWA will be better able to request and collect from the States more accurate and uniform motor-fuel data and improve its own analysis and attribution of this data. Ultimately, the improved motor-fuel procedures will be included in a future version of FHWA's *A Guide to Reporting Highway Statistics*. Under TEA-21, motor-fuel is an apportionment factor for about \$10.8 billion in FY 1999 Federal-aid funds. This includes motor-fuel as a direct factor, as well as a factor used to attribute Highway Trust Fund receipts.

We are bringing this survey to your attention because of the data's importance to FHWA in apportioning funds to the States and because of the importance of your division's role in working with the States on this matter. Please note that State responses are due to AASHTO by March 19.

If at anytime you need to discuss this matter, please contact me or Tom Howard at (202) 366-0180.

Attachments

ATTACHMENT A

Survey of State Members that Furnish Federal Highway Administration Motor-Fuel Data

In cooperation with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the Federation of Tax Administrators (FTA), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) undertook a review of its current motor-fuel data reporting structure and issues. A group of representatives from 10 States, including Revenue and Transportation Departments and FHWA field and Headquarters staff are participating in this effort. The group is titled the Motor Fuel Reporting Information Committee (the Committee). The first meeting of the group took place December 10-11, 1998, in Washington, D.C. Mr. Nicholas L. Graf, FHWA's North Carolina Division Administrator, is chairing the Committee.

To improve motor-fuel data reporting, the Committee recommended a survey of the States to gauge State capability to report that data to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). A Survey Subcommittee with State members from Florida, New York, and Texas agreed to undertake the survey effort.

All States currently report motor-fuel data to FHWA. States differ in their motor-fuel information programs, and some variations in State data reporting and quality exist. These variations are generally believed to be minor and adjusted by FHWA in accordance with instructions in *A Guide to Reporting Highway Statistics (Guide)* to increase State-to-State uniformity and consistency. However, the increased amount of Federal funds relying on motor-fuel as Federal funds apportionment factor under TEA-21 suggest that maximum effort to improve data quality be made in the area of State motor-fuel reporting.

Each State is requested to complete the following questionnaire. As a result of the information you provide, the Committee will be better able to advise FHWA on the reporting guidance it places on the States. After consultation with the committee and other deliberations, revised guidance may be published in FHWA's *Guide* or revisions to the *Guide*.

We ask that you send the completed Survey to "davidc@ashto.org" or mail us three copies of material to the following address:

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
Attention: AASHTO/FTA Motor Fuel Survey
444 North Capitol Street N.W., Suite 249
Washington, D.C. 20001

Your reply is requested by Friday, March 19, 1999. Survey summary and results will be shared with States.

Survey of State Members that Furnish Federal Highway Administration Motor-Fuel Data

General

In general, the terms and underlying assumptions in this Survey are the same as those in FHWA's *A Guide to Reporting Highway Statistics* (March 1997). This publication can be accessed on FHWA's Office of Highway Information Management's (OHIM) Web Site <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ohim/ghwystat.htm>.

As a result of legislated formulas in TEA-21 legislation, billions of dollars annually in Federal transportation assistance now rely on State-reported motor-fuel or Highway Trust Fund contributions attributed based on State-reported motor-fuel. These formulas apply to Federal Surface Transportation Program funds, National Highway System funds, Interstate Maintenance funds, and Minimum Guarantee funds. The legislated formulas are contained in Section 1103 and Section 1104 of that legislation, which may be accessed under FHWA's Web Site <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century>.

The survey is developed to gather information first by fuel type and next by use type. Recognizing that many of the States will not be able to provide much of the detail, it attempts to gauge States' ability to meet FHWA requests for this data. Not wishing to unduly burden the State data providers, FHWA recognizes that it may be necessary to model some of this data, or to modify what data is requested from the States.

Please note that there is a "Remarks" section where answers may be further explained. This includes explanations of "no" answers such as degree of State effort included to furnish data, or the potential for State effort included to furnish data, or the potential for State to furnish releasable estimate where no tax based data is available.

Motor Fuel Type: Gasoline

1. **Highway Use** - Is your State able to furnish FHWA tax-based data for gasoline fuel used on highways for:

	Y	N
a. Private use	___	___
b. Commercial use	___	___
c. U.S. Government use	___	___
d. State Government use	___	___
e. County Government use (excluding public schools)	___	___
f. Municipal Government use (excluding public schools)	___	___
g. Public school use	___	___

Remarks (i.e., explanation of “no” answers - degree of State effort involved to furnish data where answers are now “no”, potential for providing reliable estimates, etc.)

2. **Off-Highway Use** (Agriculture, aviation, industrial and commercial, construction, marine, and miscellaneous) - Is your State able to furnish FHWA tax-based or otherwise statistically sound data for gasoline fuel used off-highways for:

	Y	N
a. Private use	___	___
b. Commercial use	___	___
c. U.S. Government use	___	___
d. State Government use	___	___
e. County Government use (excluding public schools)	___	___
f. Municipal Government use (excluding public schools)	___	___
g. Public school use	___	___

Remarks (i.e., explanation of “no” answers - degree of State effort involved to furnish data where answers are now “no”, possibility of reliable estimates, etc.)

3. **Loss Allowances** - Is your State able to furnish FHWA tax-based data for flat - percent gasoline losses for:

	Y	N
a. Private use	___	___
b. Commercial use	___	___
c. U.S. Government use	___	___
d. State Government use	___	___
e. County Government use (excluding public schools)	___	___
f. Municipal Government use (excluding public schools)	___	___
g. Public school use	___	___

Remarks (i.e., explanation of “no” answers - degree of State effort involved to furnish data where answers are now “no”, potential for providing reliable estimates, etc.)

4. If yes, what percent is used for losses? _____

5. **Actual Losses** - Is your State able to furnish FHWA tax-based data for actual gasoline losses for:

	Y	N
a. Private use	___	___
b. Commercial use	___	___
c. U.S. Government use	___	___
d. State Government use	___	___
e. County Government use (excluding public schools)	___	___
f. Municipal Government use (excluding public schools)	___	___
g. Public school use	___	___

Remarks (i.e., explanation of “no” answers - degree of State effort involved to furnish data where answers are now “no”, potential for providing reliable estimates, etc.)

6. If yes, what percent is used for losses? _____

Motor Fuel Type: Gasohol

7. **5.7 - 7.7 Percent Highway Use** - Is your State able to furnish FHWA tax-based data for gasohol fuel whose alcohol content is at least 5.7 percent but less than 7.7 percent used on highways for:

	Y	N
a. Private use	___	___
b. Commercial use	___	___
c. U.S. Government use	___	___
d. State Government use	___	___
e. County Government use (excluding public schools)	___	___
f. Municipal Government use (excluding public schools)	___	___
g. Public school use	___	___

Remarks (i.e., explanation of “no” answers -- degree of State effort involved to furnish data where answers are now “no”, potential for providing reliable estimation, etc.)

8. **7.7 - 10 Percent Highway Use** - Is your State able to furnish FHWA tax-based data for gasohol fuel whose alcohol content is at least 7.7 percent but less than 10.0 percent used on highways for:

	Y	N
a. Private use	___	___
b. Commercial use	___	___
c. U.S. Government use	___	___
d. State Government use	___	___
e. County Government use (excluding public schools)	___	___
f. Municipal Government use (excluding public schools)	___	___
g. Public school use	___	___

Remarks (i.e., explanation of “no” answers -- degree of State effort involved to furnish data where answers are now “no”, potential for providing reliable estimation, etc.)

9. **10 Percent Highway Use** - Is your State able to furnish FHWA tax-based data for gasohol fuel whose alcohol content is at 10.0 percent or more used on highways for:

	Y	N
a. Private use	___	___
b. Commercial use	___	___
c. U.S. Government use	___	___
d. State Government use	___	___
e. County Government use (excluding public schools)	___	___
f. Municipal Government use (excluding public schools)	___	___
g. Public school use	___	___

Remarks (i.e., explanation of “no” answers--degree of State effort involved to furnish data where answers are now “no”, potential for providing reliable estimation, etc.)

10. **Off- Highway Use** - Is your State able to furnish FHWA tax-based data for gasohol fuel used off-highways for:

	Y	N
a. Private use	___	___
b. Commercial use	___	___
c. U.S. Government use	___	___
d. State Government use	___	___

- e. County Government use (excluding public schools) ___ ___
- f. Municipal Government use (excluding public schools) ___ ___
- g. Public school use ___ ___

Remarks (i.e., explanation of “no” answers - degree of State effort involved to furnish data where answers are now “no”, potential for providing reliable estimation, etc.)

11. **Loss Allowance** - Is your State able to furnish FHWA tax-based data for flat - percent actual gasohol losses for:

- | | Y | N |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| a. Private use | ___ | ___ |
| b. Commercial use | ___ | ___ |
| c. U.S. Government use | ___ | ___ |
| d. State Government use | ___ | ___ |
| e. County Government use (excluding public schools) | ___ | ___ |
| f. Municipal Government use (excluding public schools) | ___ | ___ |
| g. Public school use | ___ | ___ |

Remarks (i.e., explanation of “no” answers--degree of State effort involved to furnish data where answers are now “no”, potential for providing reliable estimation, etc.)

12. If yes, what percent is used for losses? _____

13. **Actual Losses** - Is your State able to furnish FHWA tax-based data for actual gasohol losses for:

- | | Y | N |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| a. Private use | ___ | ___ |
| b. Commercial use | ___ | ___ |
| c. U.S. Government use | ___ | ___ |
| d. State Government use | ___ | ___ |
| e. County Government use (excluding public schools) | ___ | ___ |
| f. Municipal Government use (excluding public schools) | ___ | ___ |
| g. Public school use | ___ | ___ |

Remarks (i.e., explanation of “no” answers - degree of State effort involved to furnish data where answers are now “no”, potential for providing reliable estimates, etc.)

Motor Fuel Type: Diesel

International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) Diesel Data

14. **IFTA** - Is your State currently reporting net interstate motor-carrier (excluding refunds to other States) data under IFTA agreement?

Y	N
_____	_____

Remarks (i.e., explanation of “no” answers, what work would be involved to get data where answers “no”

Non-International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) Diesel Data

15. **Highway Use** - Is your State able to furnish FHWA tax-based data for diesel fuel used on highways for users not covered by International Fuel Tax Agreements:

	Y	N
a. Private use	_____	_____
b. Commercial use	_____	_____
c. U.S. Government use	_____	_____
d. State Government use	_____	_____
e. County Government use (excluding public schools)	_____	_____
f. Municipal Government use (excluding public schools)	_____	_____
g. Public school use	_____	_____

Remarks (i.e., explanation of “no” answers - degree of State effort involved to furnish data where answers are now “no”, potential for providing reliable estimates, etc.)

16. **Off-Highway Use** - Is your State able to furnish FHWA tax-based data for diesel fuel used off-highways for:

	Y	N
a. Private use	_____	_____
b. Commercial use	_____	_____
c. U.S. Government use	_____	_____
d. State Government use	_____	_____
e. County Government use (excluding public schools)	_____	_____
f. Municipal Government use (excluding public schools)	_____	_____
g. Public school use	_____	_____

Remarks (i.e., explanation of “no” answers - degree of State effort involved to furnish data where answers are now “no”, potential for providing reliable estimates, etc.)

17. **Loss Allowances** - Is your State able to furnish FHWA tax-based data for flat - percent diesel losses for:

	Y	N
a. Private use	___	___
b. Commercial use	___	___
c. U.S. Government use	___	___
d. State use	___	___
e. County use (excluding public schools)	___	___
f. Municipal use (excluding public schools)	___	___
g. Public school use	___	___

Remarks (i.e., explanation of “no” answers, what work would be involved to get data where answers “no”)

18. If yes, what percent is used? _____

19. **Actual Losses** - Is your State able to furnish FHWA tax-based data for actual diesel losses for:

	Y	N
a. Private use	___	___
b. Commercial use	___	___
c. U.S. Government use	___	___
d. State Government use	___	___
e. County Government use (excluding public schools)	___	___
f. Municipal Government use (excluding public schools)	___	___
g. Public school use	___	___

Remarks (i.e., explanation of “no” answers - degree of State effort involved to furnish data where answers are now “no”, potential for providing reliable estimates, etc.)

Motor Fuel Type: Other

20. Highway Use - Is your State able to furnish the number of gallons used on public highways the following other fuels:

	Y	N
a. Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)	___	___
b. Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)	___	___
c. Neat alcohol (85% alcohol)	___	___
d. Compressed natural Gas (CNG)	___	___
e. Kerosene	___	___

Remarks (i.e., explanation of “no” answers - degree of State effort involved to furnish data where answers are now “no”, potential for providing reliable estimates, etc.)

21. **Extent of Other Fuels** - If “yes” answers were provided to questions 19, approximately what percentage of total motor-fuel used on highways would be included under these other fuel? (Check one)

- a. Less than one percent _____
- b. One - five percent _____
- c. More than five percent _____

22. **Native Americans** : Is your State currently reporting motor-fuel purchased on Native American Reservations?

	Y	N
a. Gasoline	___	___
b. Diesel	___	___
c. Gasohol	___	___

Remarks (i.e., explanation of “no” answers - degree of State effort involved to furnish data where answers are now “no”, potential for providing reliable estimates, etc.)

Survey Respondent Information:

Please list the name(s) etc. of persons completing this survey and who may be contacted to

provide further information on survey responses:

Name _____
Title _____
Organization _____
Street Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
E-Mail _____
Date _____

When completed, please forward the one copy of the survey to FTA and one copy to AASHTO by March 19, 1999.