

MARATHON COUNTY WHEEL TAX INFORMATION SHEET

WHY DO WE NEED THIS TAX?

- We want Marathon County to be a preferred place to live, work, visit and do business.
- Quality Roadways are absolutely integral to that Mission and the reality is our roads need work and our resources to do the work are dwindling.
 - Needs in Marathon County
 - **ROADS** - Currently 277 miles of our 611 county miles fall below our standard of a 7 out of 10 rating
 - **BRIDGES** - Currently 19 of our 110 bridges have a sufficiently rating below our goal of 50 out of a 100 rating
 - 4 of those bridges rate *Functionally Obsolete* according to federal standards
 - Costs have Increased
 - **Material Cost for Marathon County:**
 - Salt Prices:
 - 2013/14 \$66.99/ton
 - 2014/15 \$78.49/ton
 - 2015/16 \$79.34/ton
 - Asphalt Prices:
 - 2005 \$20.40/ton
 - 2015 \$47.76/ton - average year Marathon County paves 95,000 tons
 - **Overall Cost to pave a road:**
 - 1993, (last time federal gas tax was raised) was approximately \$75,000 per mile
 - 2006 (last time Wisconsin gas tax was raised) was approximately \$85,000 per mile
 - **2015 approximately \$208,000 per mile**
 - Contributions from the Federal and State Governments are not keeping pace
 - **Federal funding, Fast Act Recently Passed**
 - Act makes clear there is not going to be any large influx of federal funds for at least the next 6 years.
 - Highways compete with Transit, Aviation, Amtrak, Ports, Harbors, Waterways, etc., for federal transportation funding.
 - **Wisconsin State Funding – doesn't appear to be increasing as necessary**
 - State Fiscal Bureau reports that a **29.29%-64.65% yearly road funding increase is needed BUT early reports are that there will be little or no increase in state aids**
 - Gas Tax Indexing has been ruled out by state officials
 - Government has increased weight limits for timber & Ag industry – which INCREASES DAMAGE TO ROADWAYS
 - Surrounding states have increased registration fees and other revenues to meet these demands – we can't let the driving force of our economy fall into disrepair.
 - **Monthly cost for Wisconsinites to drive per month compared to our Neighbors, based on Registration Fees and Motor Fuel Taxes.**
 - Illinois \$39/month
 - Iowa \$41/month
 - Michigan \$28/month
 - Minnesota \$42/month
 - Wisconsin \$23/month

WHO IS GOING TO HAVE TO PAY AND HOW MUCH IS IT?

- What types of vehicles are subject to the fee?
 - o An automobile or a motor truck registered under 8,000 lbs gross weight and customarily kept in the municipality or county that enacted the tax.
- How much is it?
 - o \$25 per registered vehicle, not per wheel
 - o Expected to generate approximately \$2.9 million
- What vehicles are EXEMPT:
 - o Buses, motorcycles, mopeds, motor homes, low-speed vehicles and trailers
 - o Trucks registered at more than 8,000 pounds or registered as Farm or Dual Purpose Farm
 - o Vehicles registered as Antique, Collector, Driver education, Historic military vehicle, Hobbyist, Human service vehicle, Low-speed vehicle, Medal of honor, Municipal, State-owned, Special X and one vehicle with Ex-prisoner of war registration issued to any qualified individual
 - o Any vehicle with registration issued by a Wisconsin Indian tribe or band
 - o Vehicles displaying Dealer, Distributor, Finance company or Manufacturer plates
- Why are some vehicles exempt
 - o State Statute limits what vehicles Marathon County can charge the fee
 - o You should be aware that large Trucks often pay their own, HIGH, fees, for example
 - Average dump truck pays \$1,900 - \$2,000 in fees plus the cost of the fuel tax
 - Average logging truck pays about \$2,400 - \$2,500 in registration, user fees & fuel tax.

WHAT IS THE MONEY REALLY GOING TO BE USED FOR

- The money MUST be used for a transportation purpose; this money won't be used to pay other types of bills, this is required by state statute.

WHEN AM I GOING TO HAVE TO PAY

- From December 2016 through December of 2017
 - o The fee is collected by the State during the registration process, so whenever you have to renew a registration or register a new vehicle, the fee will be included.
 - o 2017 only – For Marathon County to collect this fee again, the Board would need to vote again to impose it.

WHERE IS THE MONEY GOING TO BE USED

- County wheel tax is going solely to fix roadways and bridges that are the county's obligation to fix, County cannot exempt specific municipalities, nor can it allocate specific revenues from the fee to specific municipalities.
 - o State highways are the state's obligation to maintain
 - o Municipality (towns, villages, cities) are obligated to maintain roadways under their control

IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR ROADWAY MAINTENANCE, WHO DO I CALL?

- Government representatives
 - o Federal
 - Senators Ron Johnson & Tammy Baldwin
 - Representative Sean Duffy
 - o State
 - Senators Jerry Petrowski, Thomas Tiffany, and Terry Moulton
 - Representatives Dave Heaton; John Spiros; Mary Czaja; Bob Kulp; James Edming
- Other Information Sources
 - o Google "Just Fix It Wisconsin" to get general information on infrastructure repair
 - o Wisconsin Statute section 341.35 – Registration Fees