

Transportation Funding Task Force

Summary of PA 221 of 2007



Updated February 13, 2008

Public Act 221 of 2007

Creates Task Force to “review the adequacy of surface transportation and aeronautics service provision and finance” in Michigan

- Applies to roads, transit, & aviation
- Supported by MDOT staff
- Assisted by Citizens’ Advisory Committee



Task Force

- 9 citizens, representing 8 economic sectors were appointed by the Governor on February 1, 2008
 - Cindy B. Elliott – Manufacturing
 - Dennis Gillow – Labor
 - John James – Transportation
 - Ann Jousma-Miller – Agriculture
 - Michael Nystrom – At large
 - Roger Salo – Aviation
 - Richard Studley – Commerce
 - Peter Varga – Public transit
 - Susan Zehnder – Tourism

Task Force

- Majority and minority leader of Senate, or designees
 - Senator Judson Gilbert II
 - Senator Glenn S. Anderson
- Speaker and minority leader of House, or designees
 - Representative Pam Byrnes
 - Representative Philip J. LaJoy
- Law specified appointments may not include employees of MDOT, a county, county road commission, village, city or township.

Citizens' Advisory Committee

- Governor appointed committee
 - Linda Atkinson – At large
 - Boyd Blashfield – Michigan Trucking Association
 - Gloria Combe – Michigan Railroads Association
 - Daniel DeGraaf – Michigan Concrete Paving Association
 - Gretchen Driskell – Michigan Municipal League
 - Michael Fikes – Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council
 - William Gehman – Michigan Business Aviation Association
 - Russell Gronevelt – American Council of Engineering Companies of Michigan
 - Kari Hughston – Michigan Farm Bureau

Citizens' Advisory Committee

- James Klett – Asphalt Paving Association of Michigan
- James Koslosky – Michigan Association of Airport Executives
- Keith Ledbetter – Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association
- William McFarlane – Michigan Townships Association
- John Niemela – County Road Association of Michigan
- Sylvester Payne – Michigan Public Transit Association
- Steward Sandstrom – Michigan State Chamber of Commerce
- Kirk T. Steudle – Michigan Department of Transportation
- Robert Struck – Michigan Association of Counties
- Michigan Tourist Association*

Duties of Task Force

- Review strategies for maximizing return on transportation investments
- Evaluate potential alternative strategies to replace or supplement:
 - State motor fuel taxes
 - Existing & alternative user fees
 - Nonuser revenues to support economic activity & personal mobility in Michigan



Task Force Primary Focus

- Examine alternatives to fuel tax
 - Analyze feasibility
 - Suggest or recommend alternative user fees or nonuser taxes
- May recommend “implementation of pilot programs to test feasible alternatives” to fuel tax
 - Preliminary recommendations due October 31, 2008



Subject Areas

- Task Force to report by majority vote on these subjects:
 - Identified capital & maintenance needs
 - Transportation investment & maintenance priorities
 - Funding for state trunkline roads & bridges, local road agencies, & public transit agencies
 - Relative use of transportation systems
 - Responsibilities for identified needs including alternative funding options
 - Historical transportation financing patterns in relation to total state resources
 - Strategies for maximizing returns on transportation investments

Calendar of Events

- February 1, 2008
 - Governor named private-citizen members of Task Force
 - Legislative leaders named legislator members
- March 1, 2008
 - MDOT recommends work program to Task Force
- October 31, 2008
 - Task Force publishes preliminary data, findings, & recommendations
 - Task Force makes preliminary recommendations on pilot programs

What Other States are Doing

- Oregon Road User Fee Task Force
 - GPS-based mileage fee
- Pennsylvania Transportation Funding and Reform Commission
 - Preceded attempts to monetize the Turnpike & toll I-80
- Iowa Transportation Funding Study Committee
 - Recommended study of all alternatives except increasing fuel tax

What Other States are Doing

- Georgia Joint Study Committee on Transportation Funding
 - Creates regional transportation districts
 - Requires a statewide vote
- Minnesota Road User Fees Task Force
 - Charged with studying alternative highway tax systems, including associated technologies, revenue potential, public acceptance, costs, tax equity, and compatibility with other states
- North Carolina 21st Century Transportation Committee
 - Designed to study transportation infrastructure needs

The End