Test Drive the Road Ahead
Washington Road Usage Charge Pilot Project

What is a Road Usage Charge?
After several years of study, the Washington State Transportation Commission will test a pay-per-mile tax system called a road usage charge beginning in early 2018. A road usage charge asks drivers to pay for the miles they drive in Washington, rather than by the gallons of gas they use. The pilot will be a unique opportunity for Washington drivers to inform the future of transportation funding in Washington.

Why Participate?
We need a diverse set of Washington drivers to help test a road usage charge. Your input will help ensure a potential future implementation is fair and practical. Participants will be recruited from all over Washington, as well as those who frequently drive into Washington from places like British Columbia, Oregon, and Idaho.

What Participants Can Expect
2,000 drivers invited to participate
10 minutes a month average commitment for 12 months
$0 cost to participate

Recruitment
Now recruiting Washington drivers from all over the state

Recognition for participation with gift cards awarded for completing key tasks
4 Mileage reporting options from no-tech to high-tech

INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING?
Participation in the pilot project is free. Visit waroadusagecharge.org to sign up today and take WA RUC for a test drive!

More Information
info@waroadusagecharge.org
waroadusagecharge.org
1-833-WASH-RUC (833-927-4782)
360-569-1999
509-600-0999

Pilot Project Schedule

2017
Summer/Fall
Recruitment
• Recruit volunteer drivers
• Outreach to general public
• Test pilot system

Winter
Invitation
• Invite final participants
• Set up participant accounts

2018
Winter
Launch
• Pilot launches early 2018
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Why is Washington conducting the pilot?**

**To ensure sustainable, long-term funding:** As vehicles become more fuel efficient, gas consumption goes down. With a decline in gas consumption comes reduced gas tax revenues needed for our roads, bridges, and ferry system. A road usage charge could provide a more stable source of transportation funding than the gas tax, since drivers would pay by the mile instead of by the gallon.

**To ensure everyone pays their fair share:** Considering the range of MPG of today’s vehicles on the road, the gas tax has become inequitable. For the same miles driven, drivers pay widely different amounts for their roadway use, depending on their vehicle’s MPG. This inequity is expected to grow each year as vehicle MPG continues to increase.

**Will the road usage charge be an additional tax?**

No. The road usage charge is being considered as a replacement to the gas tax, not on top of or in addition to the gas tax.

**Is a road usage charge unfair compared to the gas tax?**

No. A road usage charge system would tax everyone at the same rate per mile driven on public roads in Washington regardless of a vehicle’s MPG. Today, people who use vehicles with lower MPG pay more gas tax because they purchase more gas as compared to drivers of high MPG vehicles (over 20 MPG).

**What happens if I drive out of state?**

In a future road usage charge system, the intent is that drivers would only pay for miles they drive in Washington. The pilot will help us determine how drivers would best record mileage in and out of Washington state.

---

**GAS TAX REVENUES DECLINE WITH VEHICLE FUEL EFFICIENCY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MPG</th>
<th>Current State Average 20.5 MPG</th>
<th>RUC Rate Equivalent to Current Gas Tax 2.4 cents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>6.1 cents</td>
<td>1.4 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2030</td>
<td>5.5 cents</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2035</td>
<td>5.2 cents</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2040</td>
<td>5.0 cents</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2045</td>
<td>4.9 cents</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conservative forecasts say Washington’s vehicles will reach a 35 MPG average by 2035—a potential 45% reduction in gas tax revenue per mile driven. As vehicle MPG increases, gas consumption decreases, and thus gas tax revenues decrease as well.

The state gas tax increased in 2015-2016.

---

**WANT TO LEARN MORE?**

waroadusagecharge.org