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State Transportation Secretary Warns Of Maintenance Cutbacks Due To Declining Revenues

(Editor's Note: This is a reprint of a story that was on the MetroNews web site on Nov. 5, 2009.)

State Transportation Secretary Paul Mattox tells MetroNews the state Division of Highways will have to cut its highway maintenance budget before the end of the current budget year because of a major decrease in money coming into the state Road Fund. Mattox says collections are down for the gasoline tax, vehicle registrations and the privilege tax paid on the purchase of vehicles.

Secretary Mattox says the gasoline tax revenue drop was expected, but not the vehicle privilege tax. He says it's approximately \$11 million below budget estimates. "Compared to last year we're way down," Mattox said Thursday. "It doesn't look like it's going to improve anytime in the near future."

The federal Cash for Clunkers program was touted to increase vehicles sales, but Mattox says the privilege tax revenue account only saw a slight gain. "It has not cured our problem," he said.

The \$11 million shortfall, which could grow, will result in cuts in the highway maintenance budget. Secretary Mattox says those cuts will likely come in the last quarter of the fiscal year next spring. "We're mostly talking resurfacing projects. It could be maintenance work on bridges or slips or slides," Mattox said.

The cuts are expected to impact projects across the state. "We just have to eliminate projects that we had planned to do this year from our program," Mattox said.

The cuts won't have any impact on highway projects funded by the federal economic stimulus package.

MetroNews reported earlier this week that state revenues could miss estimates by \$100 million this budget year. Governor Manchin says he expects the shortfall to be covered in the general revenue budget without any major cuts to services and without tax increases.

Other News:

State Fund Low For Road Maintenance

[Charleston Daily Mail, Nov. 6, 2009](#)

\$11 million tax shortfall could cut road work

[The Register-Herald, Nov. 6, 2009](#)



Large Crowd To Attend Next Week's 2009 West Virginia Transportation Conference

Nearly 150 persons from across West Virginia have registered to attend the 2009 West Virginia Transportation Conference, which will be held Tuesday, November 10 in Beckley. The event will be hosted by West Virginians for Better Transportation and will be held at the Country Inn & Suites/Mountaineer Conference Center in Beckley, W.Va. The registration fee is \$60 a person, and includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

The conference will provide updates on the state's transportation plans as well as information regarding the outlook for state and federal funding. [Click to see conference agenda.](#) A number of state and federal leaders have been lined up for the conference, including Congressman Nick Rahall, Governor Joe Manchin and WVDOT Secretary Paul Mattox. In addition, two key state legislative leaders will be on hand to discuss transportation issues:

- Senate Finance Chairman Walt Helmick (D-Pocahontas)
- House Finance Chairman Harry Keith White (D-Mingo)

Event info - <http://www.keepwvmoving.org/getactive/2009transportationconference.aspx>

TO REGISTER

- 1) Click [here](#) to register using an on-line form
- 2) Click [here](#) to print a registration form

New WVBT Coalition Partners

West Virginians for Better Transportation welcomes these new partners to its coalition:

**BWAB International/Heritage Truck Centers
New River Trucking, LLC**

The WVBT coalition now numbers nearly 270 companies, organizations and governmental entities.

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