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WVDOT Presents Budget; DMV Outlines Fee Hikes To Add \$61 Million For State Road Funds

W.Va. Department of Transportation Secretary Paul Mattox spoke February 2 to the House Finance Committee to present the WVDOT's FY2011 budget. His presentation covered the agencies that fall under the WVDOT: Divisions of Highway, Division of Motor Vehicles, State Rail Authority, Public Transit, Public Port Authority, Aeronautics and Parkways.

During the meeting Division of Motor Vehicles Commissioner Joe Miller outlined nearly \$61 million a year in fee increases to generate added revenues for the State Road Fund. Most are fees contemplated to be increased haven't changed for nearly 30 years. The commissioner noted that some of the fees have remained the same since 1971, while others were last raised in the early 1980s.

Below are some of the fee changes that Commissioner Miller presented to Finance Committee members:

Raising the vehicle privilege tax rate – the state sales tax on a vehicle – from 5 percent to 6 percent. This would raise an additional \$34 million a year. The tax on vehicles sales has not changed since 1971.

Increasing the vehicle registration fee from the \$28.50 to \$38.50 a year to raise \$13 million a year. The fee hasn't changed since 1976.

Increasing costs for a driver's license from \$12.50 every five years to \$25. That fee was last increased in 1981. This would generate \$3.2 million.

There are a number of other fees that are included in the DMV's proposal, including a duplicate title fee that would generate \$600,000, and a duplicate plate or decal fee that would generate \$75,000.

The proposal mirrors the findings of a study performed by WVU's Bureau of Business and Economic Research. The study was first conducted a few years ago and updated this year. Dr. Tom Witt, director of BBER, noted in his study that vehicle fees, such as the sales tax, registration fees and drivers licenses, have not kept up with inflation and should be revised.

NEWS

Road Fund's Savior?

MetroNews, Feb. 8, 2010

<http://www.wvmetronews.com/index.cfm?func=displayfullstory&storyid=35104>

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Now more than ever WVBT needs financial support from coalition partners and companies. If your organization or company would like to help sustain the coalition's ongoing campaign or would like to get more information about West Virginians for Better Transportation, please send an email to info@keepwvmoving.org. Someone would be happy to contact you.

For more information about West Virginians for Better Transportation, please go to www.keepwvmoving.org.

To opt out of this email system, please send your request to info@keepwvmoving.org.