



OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Office of the State Auditor Releases Transportation Fiscal Analysis

Highlights the long-term ineffectiveness of the gas tax

Salt Lake City, UTAH –

The Office of the State Auditor (Office) announced today the release of a visual analysis of the state transportation system's fiscal situation. Utah is growing rapidly, with more people and more cars driving more miles on the roads. Utahns consume more fuel, but with greater fuel efficiency. As a result, motor fuel taxes continue to fund a smaller and smaller share of state transportation spending.

State Auditor John Dougall stated, "The gas tax is slowly dying. With more fuel-efficient cars and the migration to alternative-fuel vehicles, the drivers' funding of the transportation system is weakening. The motor fuel tax no longer appears to be an effective long-term means of paying for roads and bridges. Over the next few years, Utahns need to identify how best to fund the highway infrastructure they expect."

The issued report may be found on the Office's website at auditor.utah.gov, on the Data and Statistics page and specifically at: Transportation Fiscal Analysis
<https://auditor.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2020/02/Transportation-Fiscal-AnalysisFeb2020.pdf>

About the Office of the State Auditor

The Office of the State Auditor provides Utah taxpayers and government officials with an independent assessment of financial operation, statutory compliance, and performance management for state and local government.

Specific activities of the Office include performing financial audits, conducting Federal funds compliance audits, providing local government oversight, conducting agency and program performance audits, performing fraud and compliance audits, and operating the State Auditor Hotline for citizens to report suspected financial issues or improprieties. These capabilities strengthen Utah State Government and help taxpayers have confidence in the integrity of Utah's government agencies.

The Office also provides interactive graphical tools to help taxpayers and policymakers gain greater insight into governmental financial activities.

The State Auditor is a Constitutional Officer of the State of Utah, elected directly by the state's citizens every four years. The role of the State Auditor is authorized in Article VII, Section 15 of the Utah Constitution. For more information, see auditor.utah.gov.

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