



Wyoming Fuel Tax News

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Fuel Tax Increase**
- *Fuel For Kids Brown Bag Ball*
- **Balancing Our Scorecard**
- **Bonding**
- **We Share Your Passion**

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Wyoming Raises The Fuel Tax

Effective July 1, 2013, the total tax on gasoline and diesel in the state of Wyoming will be \$.24 per gallon. This represents a \$.10 increase, and is the first increase since 1998. The Sixty-Second Legislature of the State of Wyoming passed the increase during the 2013 general session.

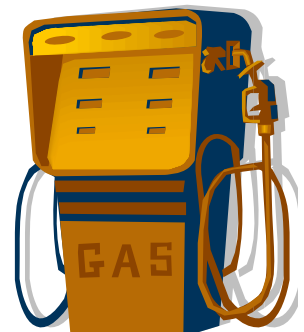
Following numerous failed attempts to increase the state's fuel tax over the last 4 to 5 years, the Wyoming Legislature's Joint Revenue Interim Committee met during the 2012 interim to study the different options available to address highway funding in the state. The committee met numerous times during the interim, and while various options were discussed during their meetings, the fuel tax increase ultimately became the solution they presented to their legislative peers in early January 2013.

There was a good amount of debate within the legislature and throughout the state concerning a fuel tax increase, but in the end House Bill 0069 received enough legislative support to pass both houses and be signed by the governor.

The increase in fuel tax will represent approximately \$70 million more in revenue each year, with about two-thirds of that amount being allocated to WYDOT for highway maintenance. The other one-third of the additional revenue gained from the tax hike will be distributed to cities, towns and counties throughout the state pursuant to the current fuel tax distribution model. House Bill 0069 states that until June 30, 2014, any funds

deposited to the highway fund which are attributable to the increase in fuel taxes shall be separately accounted for by WYDOT and should be expended to maintain the state highway system in the current condition and to prepare a comprehensive report to several joint interim committees on or before November 1, 2013. The comprehensive report will describe the condition of the state highway system and projected revenue requirements to maintain the current condition of the state highway system.

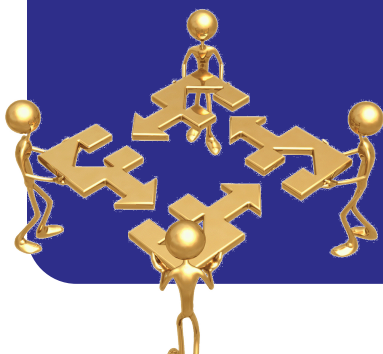
The role of the FTA Program is to administer the fuel tax statutes for the State of Wyoming, so although we were neutral in the fuel tax increase debate, we made every attempt to provide accurate statistics and information to the various legislative committees. Our goal is to ensure that the legislative body has all relevant, accurate information so they can make informed decisions. We will be working over the next several months to update all information and forms related to the fuel tax rate, and we have spent a good amount of time answering questions concerning the increase. We plan for the transition to the new tax rate to be seamless on our end, and we are open to hearing your thoughts, questions and concerns as we move toward the July 1st implementation of the fuel tax increase.





Fuel For Kids

"We are pleased to announce that we have successfully completed many of the goals we set for the program....."



The Fuel For Kids Brown Bag Ball

The Fuel Tax Team has taken its goal to give back to the local community to a whole new level in 2013 by developing and planning the inaugural *Fuel For Kids Brown Bag Ball* benefiting the Friday Food Bag Foundation.

Each year, as part of the program's strategic goals, the FTA Team has identified community charities to assist in achieving their missions. Since 2011, FTA has been working to help the Friday Food Bag Foundation provide food to Laramie County children that don't have food on the weekends. For several years we have auctioned off framed & matted puzzles built by the team, and although we raised a good amount of money, we decided as a team that we wanted to do more.

In mid-January of this year, the FTA Team committed to doing fewer community service activities so we could focus on building a BIG event for the Friday Food Bag Foundation. Additionally, it was decided that the BIG event would be a fundraising ball with dinner, a band, and live and silent auctions. The concept was pitched to the FFB Board of Directors, and they were immediately on board. Since that time, we have formed committees, identified the date and venue, signed the emcee and the band, secured some sponsorships, and solicited a good number of auction items. While there is a great deal of work left to accomplish, we are very optimistic about what this successful event will mean to the Friday Food Bag.

"The commitment of this team is unmatched," stated

Program Manager, Wayne Hassinger. "This is a huge undertaking in and of itself, and the commitment shows as 95% of the work is completed during individual team member's personal time," added Hassinger.

The Fuel For Kids Brown Bag Ball will be held on Saturday, September 28th at the Historic Plains Hotel in downtown Cheyenne.

The event will begin at 6pm with cocktails, dinner will be served at 7pm, and live entertainment will follow dinner. Tickets are \$40 each, and event sponsorships are still available. To learn more about the event, please feel free to contact our office.

For more information on the valuable and necessary mission of the Friday Food Bag Foundation, please visit their website at:

www.ffbag.org.

Balancing Our Scorecard

Over the past several years we have used these pages to keep you apprised of how we are progressing on achieving the strategic goals we set three years ago. We are pleased to announce that we have successfully completed many of the goals we set for the program, and it is now time to develop a new strategic plan for the next 3 years.

Over the next 2-3 months, the FTA Team will be working together to develop

a new Balanced Scorecard, and part of that process will be to wrap-up the current scorecard to officially see how we did. Our new Balanced Scorecard, as well as the review of our current Balanced Scorecard will be posted on our website as soon as we have completed our strategic planning process.

Without question there are some strategic goals that we were unable to achieve, and those goals will be infused

into our new scorecard in an effort to ensure their completion. We believe that we have implemented some best practices to ensure we don't lose sight of our strategic goals, and we are excited to once again look forward. An overriding goal our team has is to create a more effective and efficient government program that other government programs and departments envy and attempt to emulate. Please wish us luck.....more to come in future newsletters.

2013 Legislative Update

The 2013 General Session of the Wyoming Legislature was very active for our program, not only concerning the proposed fuel tax increase, but there was also a good amount of discussion concerning compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas, energy equivalency of non-traditional fuels, and on a broader spectrum, numerous bills to address highway funding.

In sum total, 429 bills were considered



by the sixty-second legislature during the 36 day session.

In addition to House Bill 0069 (Fuel Tax Increase) discussed on page one, House Bill 0171 passed through the legislature and becomes law effective July 1, 2013. House Bill 0171 was a definitions bill that updates the definition of gasoline by striking the language *gasoline does not mean methane, ethane, butane or liquefied gas*. Our team viewed this as a proactive and necessary update to the definition, and the bill found a fairly smooth path through the legislative process.

FTA will also be updating our *Rules & Regulations* in response to a bill that was introduced and referred to the House Revenue Committee. The

intention of the bill was to address fuel taxation on a gasoline gallon equivalent. We will be promulgating formal rules and regulations specifying the energy content of a gallon equivalent of any combination of fuel products used to propel motor vehicles. These updated rules will formalize our current practice of taxing fuel at an equivalency to a gallon of gasoline similar to what takes place today with compressed natural gas. All fuels will be considered, including but not limited to compressed natural gas, propane, liquefied natural gas, gasohol, and E85. All efforts are being made to have these promulgated rules in place by December 31, 2013.

Bonding Explained

When licensing in Wyoming a bond may be necessary depending on the intent of the fuel licensee. Outlined below are some of the requirements of Wyoming Statutes in regards to bonds:

Fuel Tax Administration requires fuel tax bonds when new fuel companies license to import or distribute fuel in Wyoming, but don't require fuel tax bonds if fuel companies license as exporters only. Once the licensee has established a good filing record which is complete, accurate and timely, Fuel Tax Administration, at their discretion, may waive the bond. Bond amounts are \$50,000 per fuel family and must be executed with a corporate surety duly licensed to do business in Wyoming.

Companies that don't establish good filing records may be required to provide a bond equivalent to the licensee's tax liability for six months if the liability is greater than \$50,000 per fuel family. FTA may also require bonds from any licensee whose license has been revoked or from any licensee who fails to file a monthly report required by our department. In addition, any company that remits insufficient funds or is delinquent in filing reports any two times in a preceding twelve month period shall be required to provide a bond.

Fuel tax bonds must be completed on the form developed by the Wyoming Attorney General. This form can be found on our website: <http://www.dot.state.wy.us/wydot/>

[business with wydot/fuel tax/new applicants](#)

In lieu of a surety or cash bond, we may accept a certificate of deposit (CD) issued by a financial institution authorized to do business in Wyoming, qualified by law to act as a depository of public funds in this state and be payable not more than one year after being deposited.

If more information is needed in regards to fuel tax bonds, please either refer to Wyoming Statutes 39-17-106 and 39-17-206 or contact our department.

"Fuel Tax Administration requires fuel tax bonds when new fuel companies license to import or distribute fuel in Wyoming, but don't require fuel tax bonds if fuel companies license as exporters only."

We Share Your **PASSION**



**Wayne Hassinger:
Program Manager**

Photography, coaching, writing, golfing, big game hunting and woodworking are all passions that consume a great deal of my time when I'm not at work. As I reflect on what I'm passionate about, it occurs to me that they all encompass competition, creativity, strategy and patience. I am extremely passionate about wildlife, scenic and sports photography as it allows me to express my creativity through a medium that allows me to share it with friends, family and as it turns out—customers. Photography is so much more than just point and click. Wildlife and sports photography require a great deal of strategy, anticipation and patience, and scenic photography requires a good eye for the unique, a sense of composition and the patience to wait for the right lighting. I also prefer to

frame and mat my own photography, and I've also built a photography website to share and market my photography. These additional steps feed my desire to be more creative with the photographs I take. And I do all of this as a completely colorblind photographer!

I am also very passionate about coaching baseball, and I get the most enjoyment from coaching my son's youth baseball teams. I spent 8 years coaching 16-18 year olds after my playing days were over, and although it was much more competitive, I find that I can have a much bigger impact on younger kids. I love to share my passion for baseball with kids that want to learn the fundamentals and strategy of the game, and anytime you can positively impact a child it is very rewarding. More often than not, the impact one can have while coaching youth is much more about life than it is the

sport they are participating in.

All of the above relates to how I approach my career. I am a driven leader of people, so my focus tends to be on the people working the process rather than on the process itself. I am a strategic and innovative guy that looks for ways to coach and be competitive while having fun at work. However, I'm not terribly patient at work, and the perfection I apply to my numerous passions gets applied to the work I do for WYDOT.

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