
Road Usage Charge for Electric Vehicles

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, MARCH 26, 2025

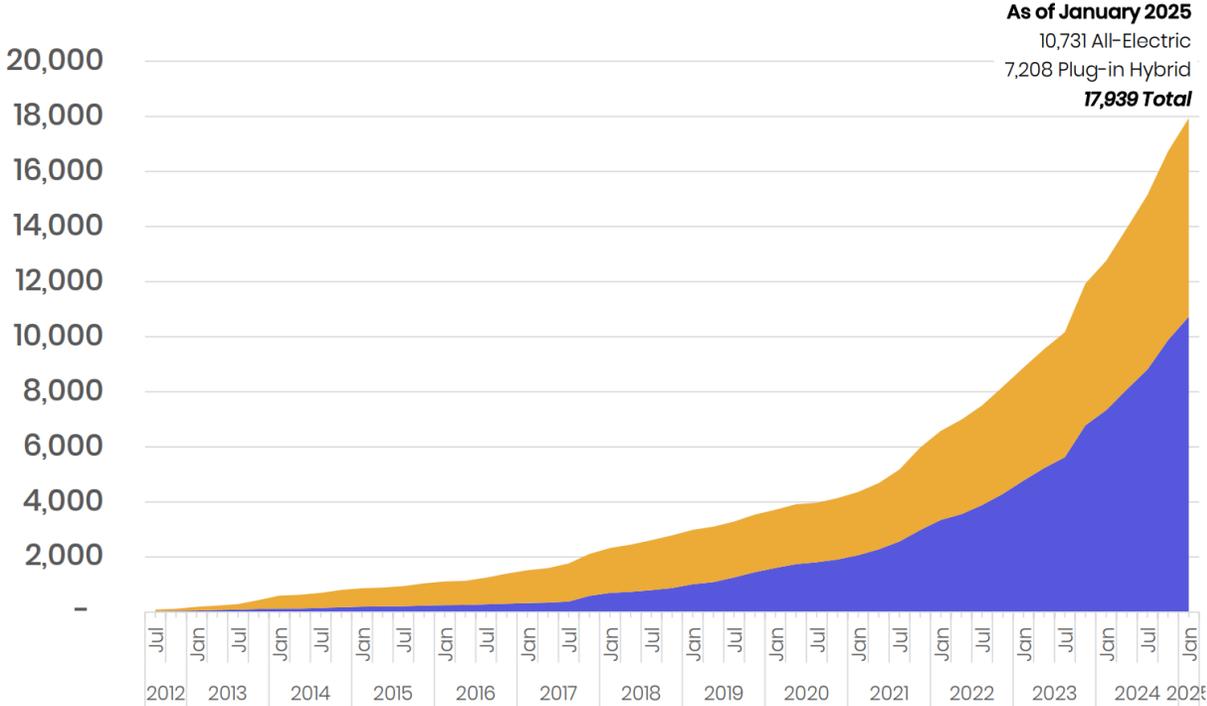
PATRICK Ó. MURPHY, STATE POLICY DIRECTOR, AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION

MATTHEW ROUSSEAU, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

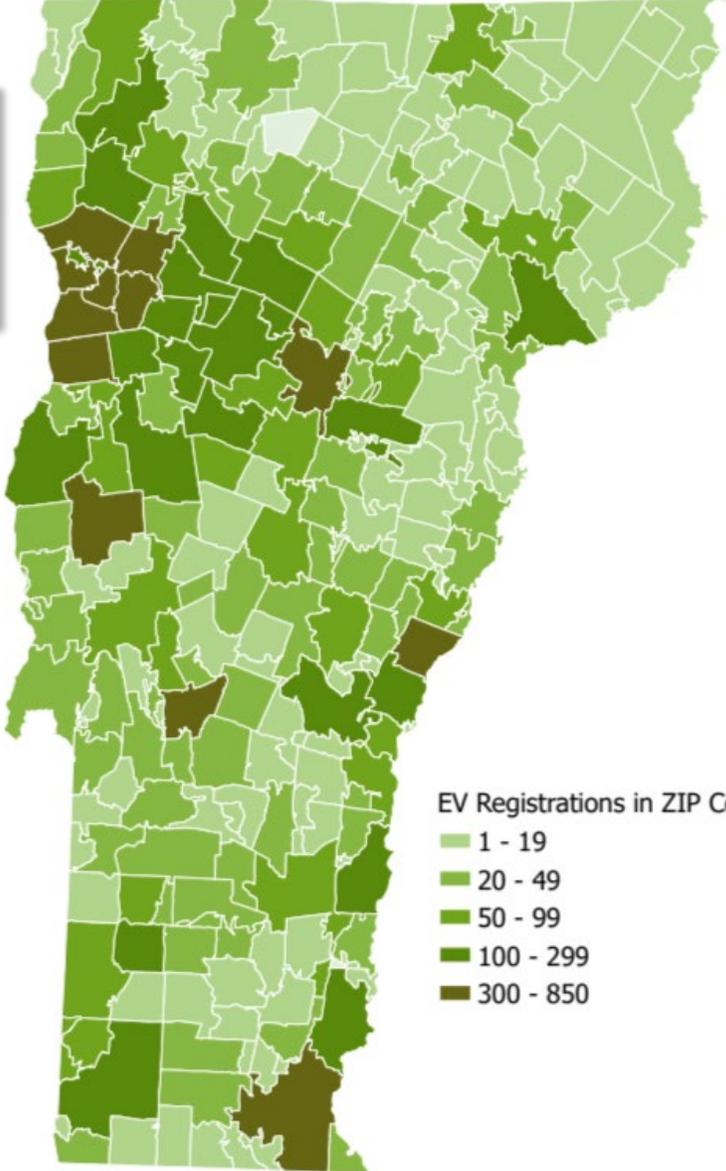
EV Adoption in Vermont

Vermont Electric Vehicle Registrations

■ All-Electric Vehicles ■ Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles

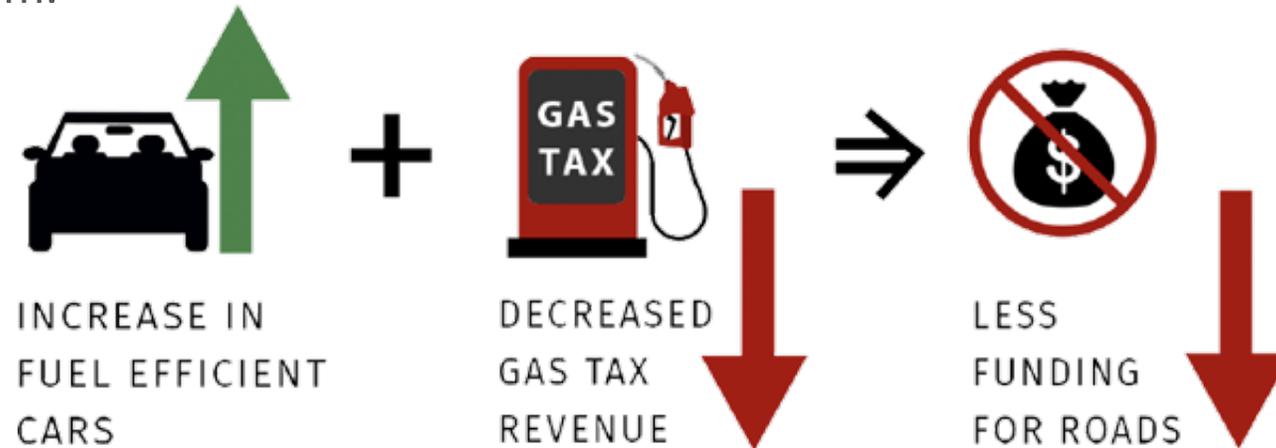


17,939 EVs:
 7,208 PHEVs
 10,731 AEVs



What is a road usage charge?

A *road usage charge* is a fee on vehicle use of the public road system.



Examples:

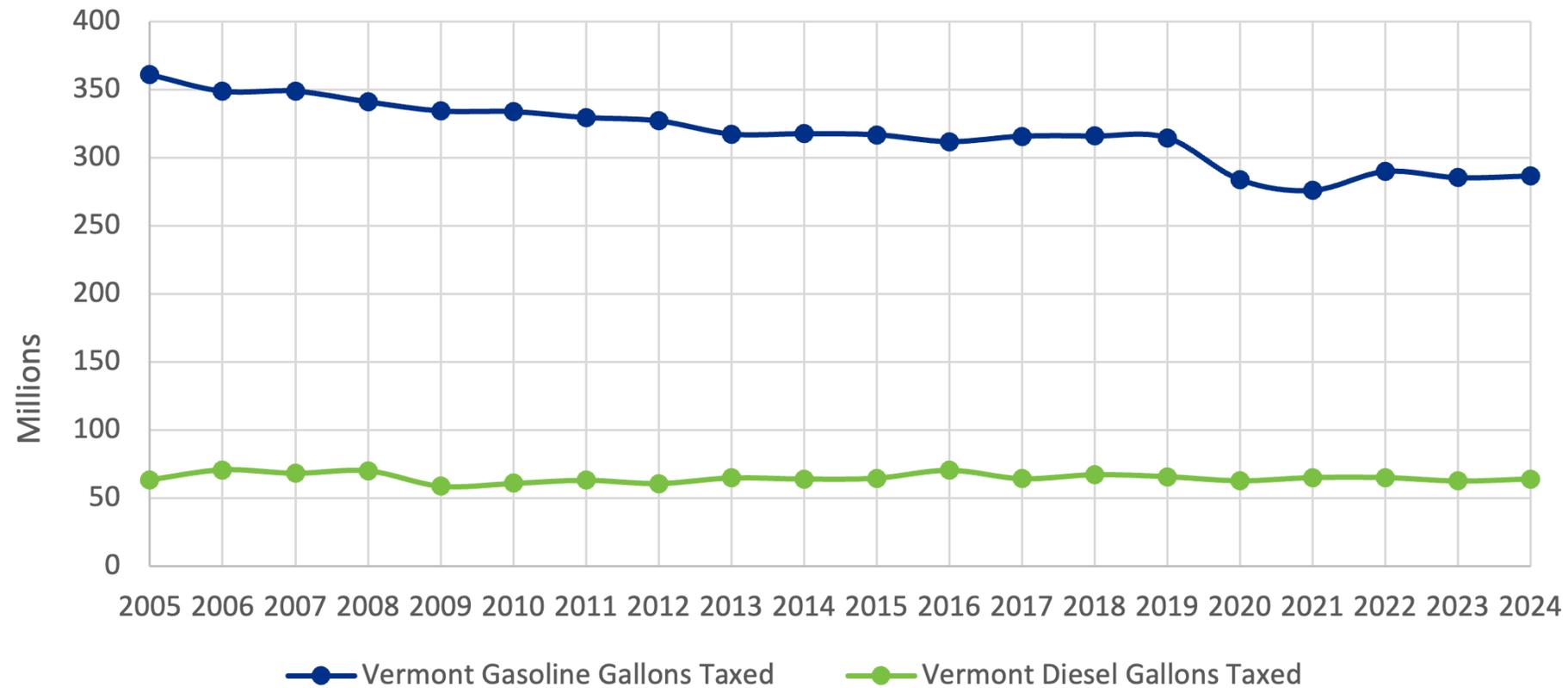
Chicago Congestion

- A mileage-based user fee (MBUF)
- An annual flat fee
- A per kilowatt hour fee

Basis of MBUF: A roadway consumption tax, with distance, stated in miles, as the measure of consumption.

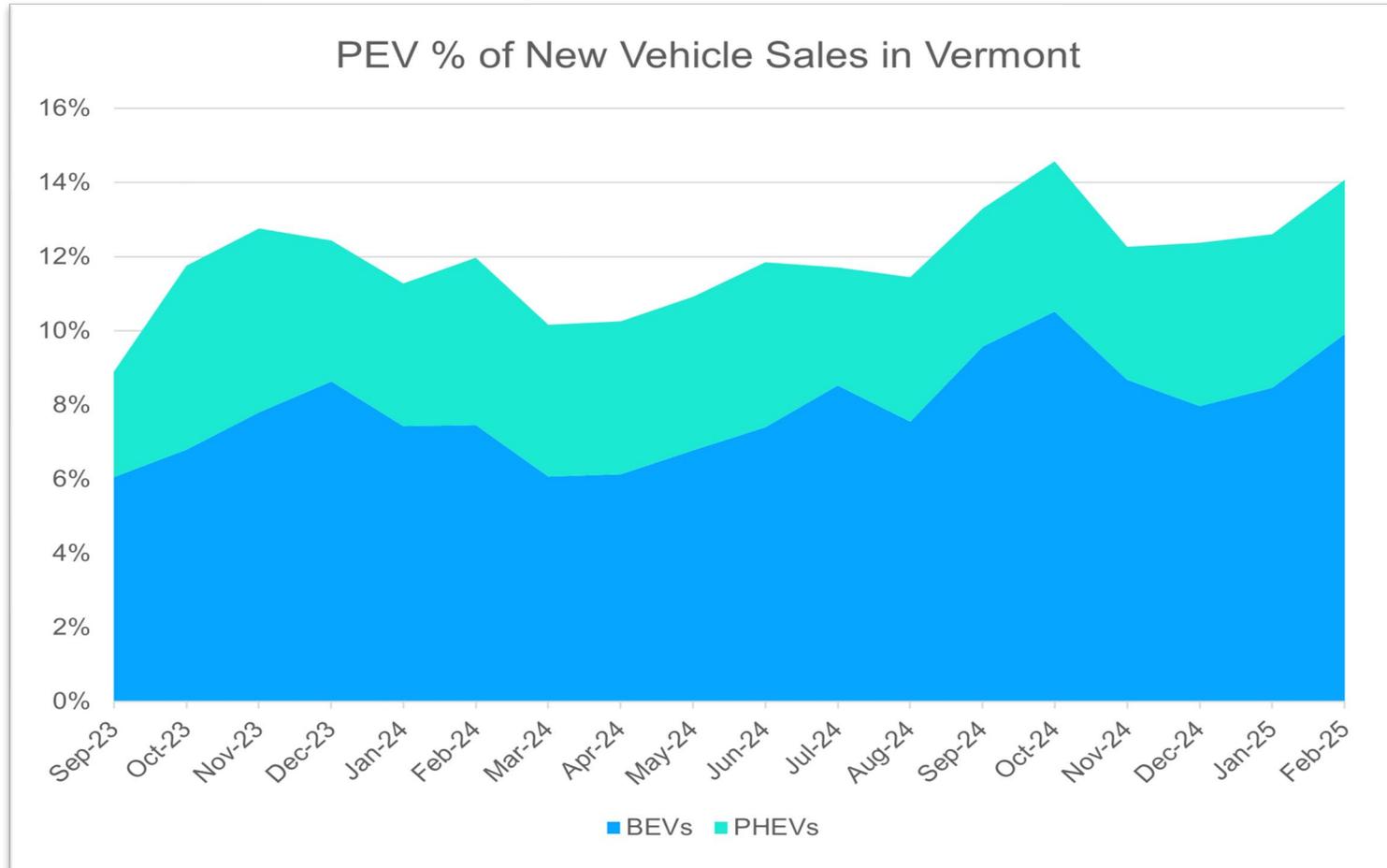
An **annual flat fee** is collected at vehicle registration.

Historical Gallons of Fuel Taxed in VT



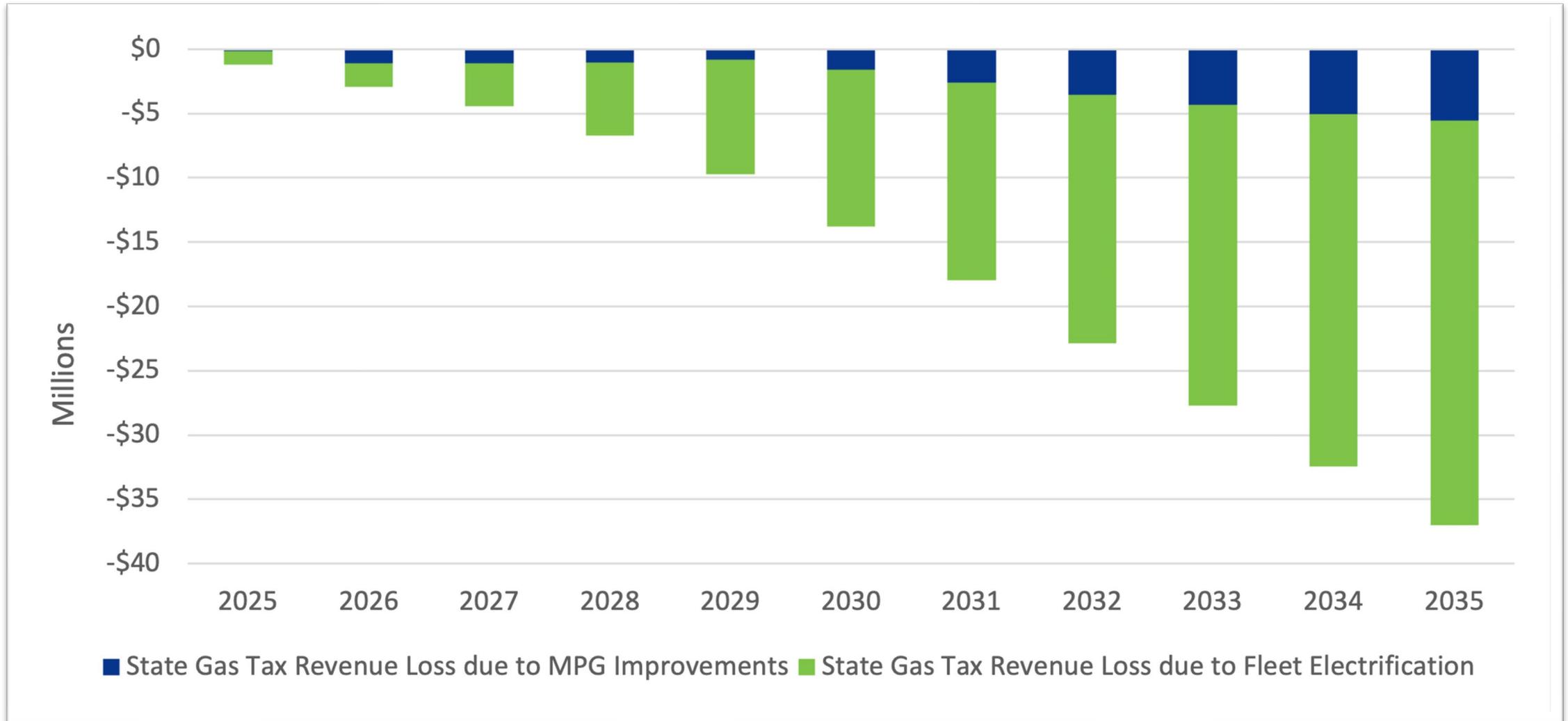
Source: July 2024, Vermont Joint Fiscal Office

Recent Plug-in Electric Vehicle Sale Trends

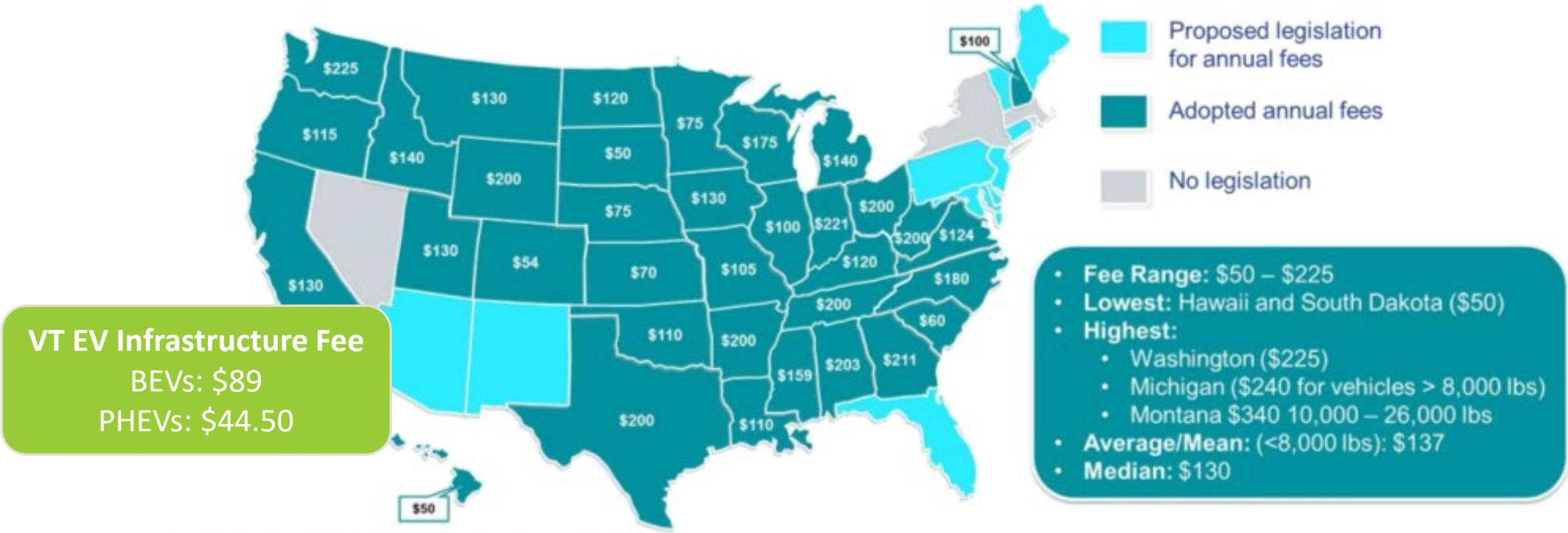


Source: VADA, March 2024

Projected decline in fuel tax revenue



Where are annual flat fees happening in US?



Source: [Special Fees on Plug-In Hybrid and Electric Vehicles \(ncscc.org\)](https://www.ncscc.org) cross referenced with State DMV websites

Figure ES-4: Light EV Fees in January 2024 (rounded to nearest dollar)

Where are mileage-based user fees happening in US?

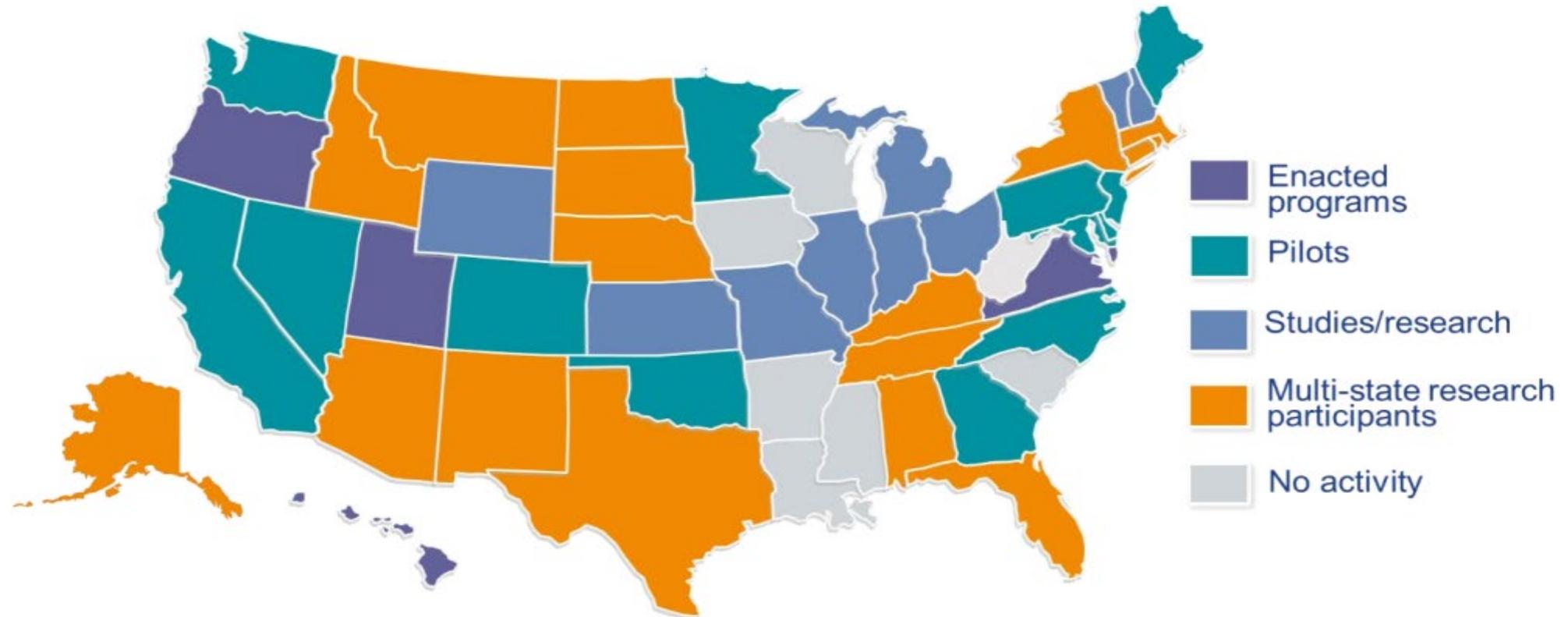


Figure 2-1: January 2024 MBUF Landscape

2024 Compendium of Revenue Alternatives
[The Eastern Transportation Coalition](#)

Road Usage Charge Study

Road Usage Charge Advisory Committee and subcommittees convened stakeholders several times in Fall 2021 to consider impacts of a variety of policy scenarios and alignment with shared goals:

- Vermont needs to develop long-term, sustainable revenue to maintain our roads and bridges
- Future funding must be fair where all drivers contribute to the maintenance of the road network
- Any funding policy ought to be aligned with Vermont's Climate Action Plan



Road Usage Charge Study – Recommendation

Road Usage Charge Study Advisory Committee recommended in its final report a mileage-based user fee for plug-in electric vehicles:

- Best opportunity to align sustainable transportation revenue and climate goals
- Cost-effectively utilizes existing inspection process with odometer reading
- Flexible payment options/frequencies
- Fairness: drivers only pay for what they use
- Avoids privacy concerns of reporting devices
- Federal money can be leveraged to assist with implementation



Equity Impacts of Road Usage Charges

University of Vermont Transportation Research Center study investigated the geographic and demographic impacts of move to a mileage-based user fee (MBUF) generally:

- Most Vermont households would see minimal difference from gas tax burden to mileage-based user fee
- Rural and lower-income households would be least impacted, while urban and higher-income households would see greater increases
- MBUF would be more progressive than gas tax, and much more so than a high flat fee, supporting the findings of prior studies but with a much more robust data set

[A Data Driven Analysis of Rural Equity and Cost Concerns for Mileage-Based User Fees in Vermont \(uvm.edu\) \(2022\)](https://scholarworks.uvm.edu/trc/274)

University of Vermont
UVM ScholarWorks

University of Vermont Transportation Research Center Research Centers and Institutes

2022

A Data Driven Analysis of Rural Equity and Cost Concerns for Mileage-Based User Fees in Vermont

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Mileage-based User Fee vs. Cost of Ownership

Estimated annual savings

The annual cost comparison shown below is based on the above cost and efficiency information combined with estimated annual vehicle use of 12,000 miles per year.

Gasoline Vehicle: \$1,795 a year



Electric Vehicle: \$830 a year



EV savings over 5 years

Savings add up! The following cost and savings estimates are based on the information provided above multiplied over 5 years. Think of all the things you could do with potential savings like this!

Gasoline Vehicle: \$8,975 over 5 years



Electric Vehicle: \$4,148 over 5 years



\$965

Switch to electric and save big on fuel. Estimated annual savings.

\$4,827

Switch to an EV and your 5 year savings could look like this.

Estimated Annual MBUF payment

\$214

(\$110)

federal taxes avoided

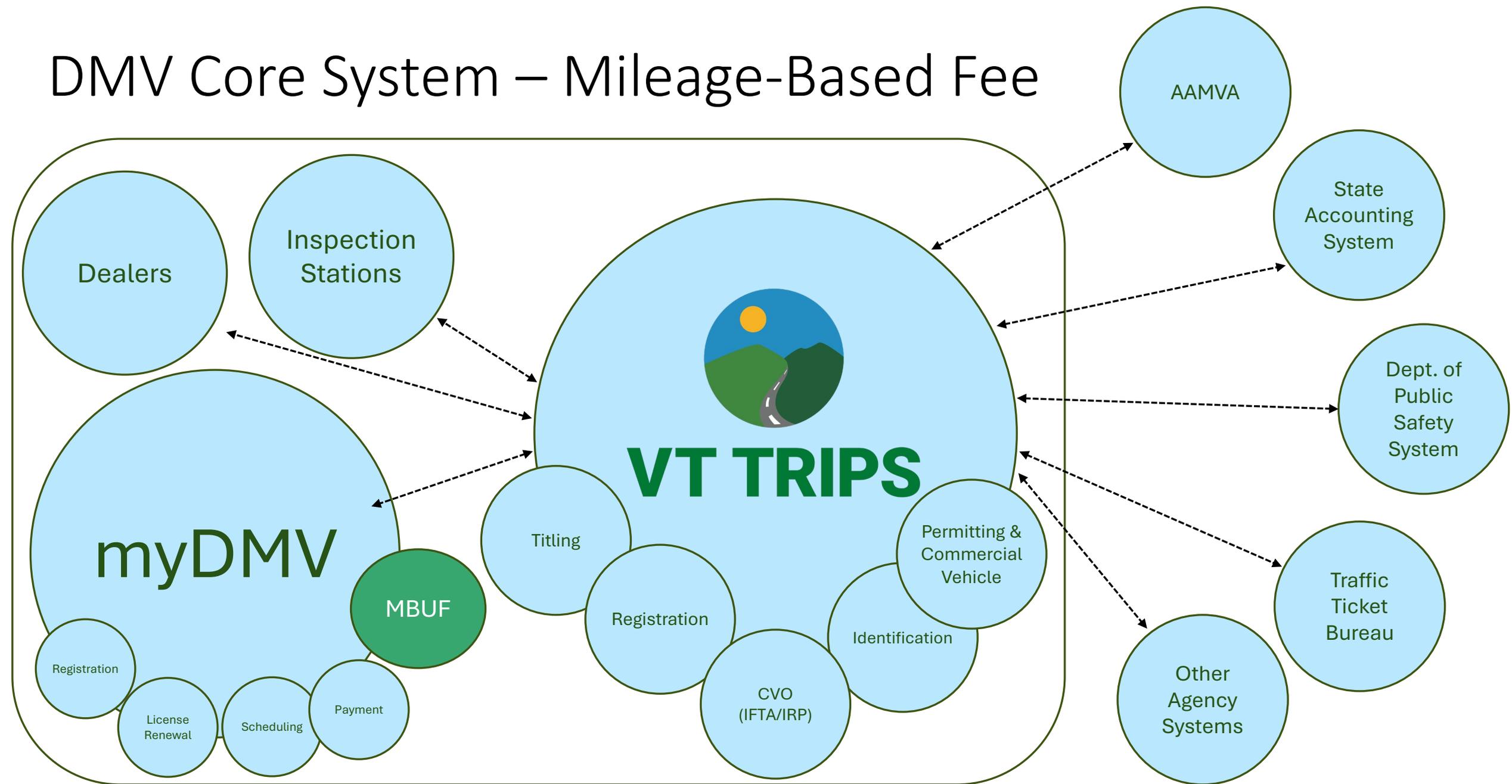
Fees designed to achieve net-revenue parity with *state* gas tax for fossil-fueled vehicles

\$1070

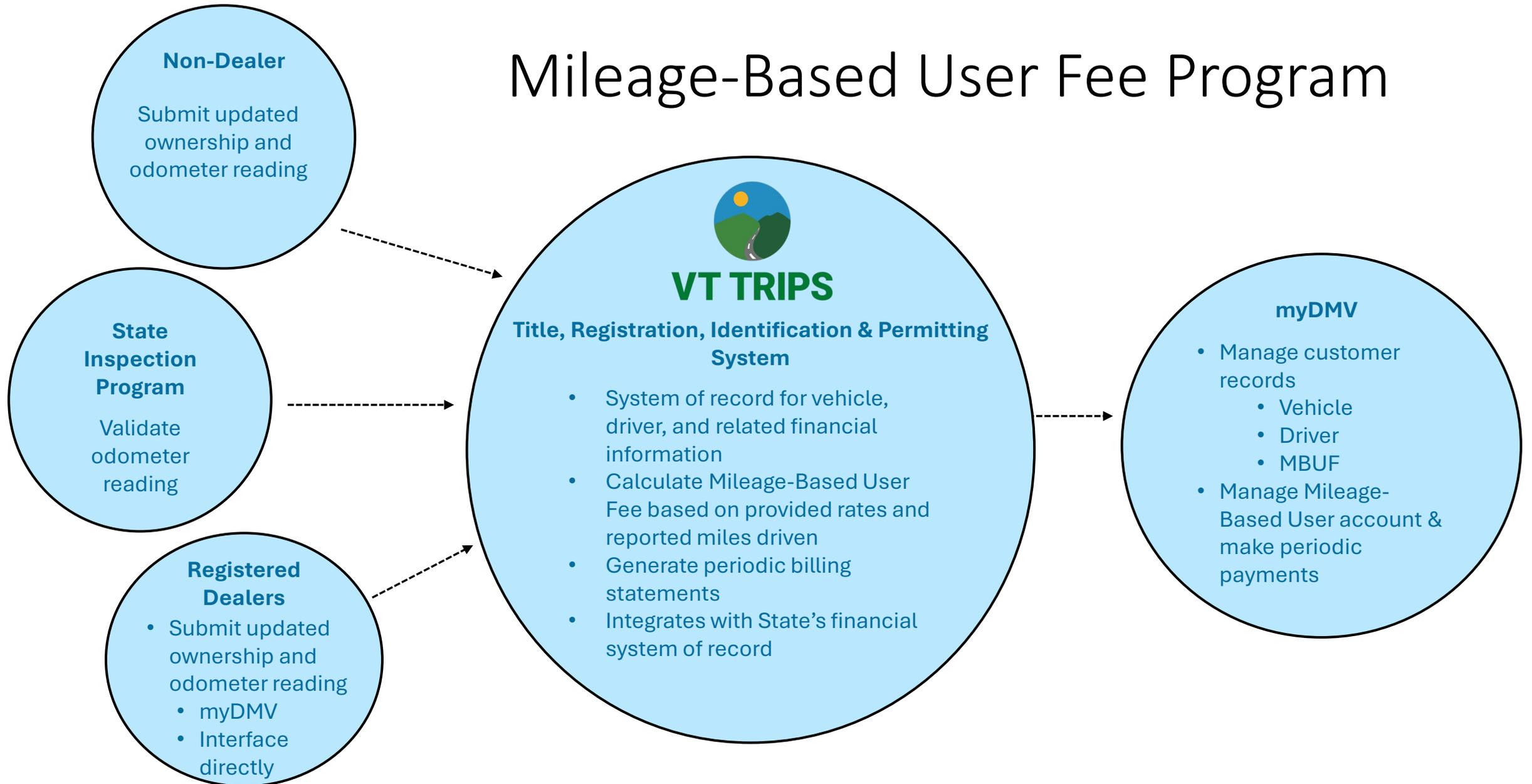
(\$550)

federal taxes avoided over 5 years

DMV Core System – Mileage-Based Fee



Mileage-Based User Fee Program



Rate-Setting Considerations

How to achieve net revenue-neutrality while avoiding the erosion of road usage revenue:

- Incorporate the cost of administering the mileage-based user fee, so that net revenues are equivalent
- Address the ongoing erosion of revenue by pointing backwards in time to when the Legislature last adjusted fuel taxes to meet transportation needs
- Allow for adjustments over time to deal with inflationary pressures on transportation and construction costs

2.2.3 Comparison of MBUF and gasoline tax

The table below summarizes amounts paid for various types of vehicles based on annual miles driven. Under an MBUF at 1.78 cents per mile, all electric vehicles would pay the same per mile:

- A vehicle driving 5,000 miles per year would pay \$89.
- A vehicle driving the Vermont average of 12,000 miles per year would pay \$214.
- A vehicle driving above average at 20,000 miles per year would pay \$356.

By contrast, under the gasoline tax, an EV would pay nothing in all three miles driven scenarios. A below average MPG vehicle such as a pickup truck would pay more: \$109, \$261, and \$435, respectively. An above average MPG hybrid would pay less: \$41, \$98, and \$163.

Vehicle type	Average on-road MPG	Gasoline tax paid			MBUF		
		Low (5,000 miles)	Medium (12,000 miles)	High (20,000 miles)	Low (5,000 miles)	Medium (12,000 miles)	High (20,000 miles)
Pickup	15	\$109	\$261	\$435			
Average VT car	20	\$82	\$196	\$326			
Sedan	30	\$54	\$130	\$217			
Hybrid	40	\$41	\$98	\$163			
PHEV	80	\$20	\$49	\$82			
EV	∞	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$89	\$214	\$356

Compliance

Early compliance through significant education and outreach to EV owners/lessees

Enforcing payment of an MBUF can rely on the same or similar procedures as other vehicles, with an emphasis on the subject vehicles versus the owners/drivers

- **Preferred enforcement approach is to apply a registration hold** to encourage reporting and payment of MBUF (and enrollment, if necessary), until MBUF is assessed and paid during annual (or bi-annual) vehicle registration renewal. This is consistent with existing practice for other registration fees.
- **If the odometer reading is unavailable, the preferred approach is to assess a flat fee at registration/time of sale set at the 98th percentile of annual miles driven.** This percentile can be determined based on the odometer readings reported by compliant vehicles

Strategic Innovation for Revenue Collection (SIRC)

Authorized by 2021 Investment Infrastructure and Jobs Act (IIJA):

To test the design, acceptance, equity, and implementation of user-based alternative revenue mechanisms, including among—

- (i) differing income groups; and
- (ii) rural and urban drivers, as applicable.

FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of a pilot project carried out under this section may not exceed **80 percent** of the total cost of a project carried out by an eligible entity that has not otherwise received a grant



Legislative Direction (2023 Act 62)

Sec. 27. MILEAGE-BASED USER FEE LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly for the State:

- (1) to start collecting a mileage-based user fee from all battery-electric vehicles registered in Vermont starting on July 1, 2025, which is expected to be the first day of the first fiscal year when more than 15 percent of new pleasure car registrations in the State are plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs);
- (2) to start subjecting plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) that are a pleasure car to an increased annual or a biennial registration fee starting on July 1, 2025, and that PHEVs shall not be subject to a mileage-based user fee;
- (3) to work towards collecting a fee on kWhs that are dispensed through certain electric vehicle supply equipment available to the public so as to supplant lost gas tax revenue from PEVs; and
- (4) to not commence collecting a mileage-based user fee until such authorizing language is codified in statute and becomes effective.

Project & Federal Grant Timeline



First Round SIRC Award Announcements

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