

Why Broaden Oregon's Gas Tax Distribution?

Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates, Oregon 2011

AORTA has submitted a proposal to the State Legislature to place before voters the opportunity to change the Oregon Constitution to allow the use of revenue from taxes on motor vehicles and fuel to be used for intercity passenger rail, public transit, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities in addition to its use for roads.

Section 3a. Use of revenue from taxes on motor vehicle and bicycle use and fuel; legislative review of allocation of taxes between vehicle classes. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, revenue from the following shall be used exclusively for the construction, reconstruction, improvement, repair, maintenance, operation, and use of public highways, roads, streets, *(and)* roadside rest areas, and intercity passenger rail, public transit, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities in this state:

The AORTA proposal could:

- Provide state matching funds for high-speed rail in Oregon
- Provide funds for bicycle and pedestrian facilities outside of road right-of-ways
- Provide funds for intercity bus service, especially in rural areas
- Provide alternative transportation options for those who cannot drive
- Reduce demand on the state lottery for funding *Connect Oregon IV*
- Reduce demand on the highway network
- Reduce traffic congestion
- Reduce oil consumption
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions