Idaho Counties

State Summary of Transportation Funding and Finance

## **Transportation and Financial Authority:**

• Counties have the authority to levy real property and personal property taxes.

• With the approval of qualified voters, counties may charge a motor vehicle registration fee no greater than twice the fee that the state charges. 30% of the revenues collected must go to any city or cities within the county’s jurisdiction and the rest must be used by the county or highway districts within the county for the management of highways.

• Counties do not have evident authority to charge any noteworthy fees not already listed.

Mandated/Authorized Transportation Services:

• The board shall lay out, establish, maintain, and manage public roads, turnpikes, ferries, and bridges within the county.

• The county need not perform these duties in highway districts established by the state.

• To fund their initiatives as they relate to infrastructure, the county may levy a tax.

•The county commissioners may operate a public transportation system, including fixed transit routes, shuttles between cities and counties, and paratransit for the elderly and disabled. The county may accept state and federal grants to fund the project.

## **Funding Sources for County Transportation Projects:**

• State revenue is comprised of a gas tax (40 percent), diesel tax (18 percent), registration fees (30 percent), and miscellaneous revenue (12 percent).

• For every $50 an Idaho motorist spends on gas, Idaho roads and bridges receive $3.00, which is distributed as follows: Idaho State Police receive $0.15, local roads and bridges receive $1.14, and state roads and bridges receive $1.71.

## **Challenges in Funding and Financing Transportation Projects:**

• Idahoans continue to buy more fuel-efficient vehicles, further widening the gap between available revenue and transportation needs. Vehicles have made increasing gains in fuel efficiency—from an average of 14.3 miles per gallon in 1978 to 22.6 miles per gallon in 2008 (FHWA Highway Statistics, FHWA Table VM-201a and FHWA Table VM-10). This trend will continue as hybrid and alternative-energy vehicles gain popularity.

## **Innovative Solutions to Funding and Financing Challenges:**