Wyoming Counties

State Summary of Transportation Funding and Finance

## **Transportation and Financial Authority:**

Counties have authority to:

• Levy real property taxes for transportation.

• Grant franchises or licenses to operate ferries and toll bridges.

• Contract indebtedness to fund viaducts beside and subways underneath any public road in the county, and levy taxes to discharge indebtedness.

• Acquire land, contract indebtedness for, levy taxes for, construct, and operate an airport.

• Enter into a regional transportation authority which may jointly levy taxes, issue bonds, and contract indebtedness to provide regional transportation options.

Counties do not have authority to:

• Levy franchise taxes or fees.

Mandated/Authorized Transportation Services:

• County commissions are charged with laying out, constructing, maintaining, and discontinuing public roads.

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

Counties Receive:

• A share of both the state gasoline (13.5%) and diesel fuel taxes (approximately 20%) for county roads. This money shall be allocated as follows:

○ To the highway fund, an amount equal to the counties' contribution for the cost of the university's technology transfer program or $31,250.00, whichever is less;

○ The remainder to the counties and the share allocated to each county shall be based 50% upon the percentage ratio which the rural population including the population within the cities and towns with less than 1,400 of each county bears to the total rural population of the state and 50% based upon the percentage ratio which the area of each county bears to the area of the state.

○ Any interest earned on the investment of monies in the fund created by this subsection shall be retained by each county and shall be used for project costs as authorized by this section.

○ Whenever an emergency arises requiring construction or maintenance work using funds from the road construction and maintenance fund of a county, the board of county commissioners may enter into contract for the work without advertising for the letting of the contract.

• 2.9% of the state severance taxes. The severance taxes are capped at 53 about $4.5 million.

• Separate funding for road construction through the County Road Fund Program. At this time, the counties do not receive an annual allotment of federal funds.

• The County Road Construction Fund provides for the construction and improvement of county roads.

• The road construction and maintenance fund program, a supplement to federal aid, primary and secondary road programs in each county.

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

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

• A bill that would use some of the state's severance tax money to help fix highways and roads in Wyoming is on hold.

○ The bill would divert half of 1 percent of severance tax money that goes to the trust fund and use it this way: 20 percent to county roads.

○ A half percent of severance tax on all oil, gas and coal would raise an estimated $71.4 million in fiscal year 2014, based on information Cooper provided. Of that, about $53.5 million would go to the highway fund, and $14.3 million to county road funds.