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Can vehicle registration fees solve the transportation funding problem?

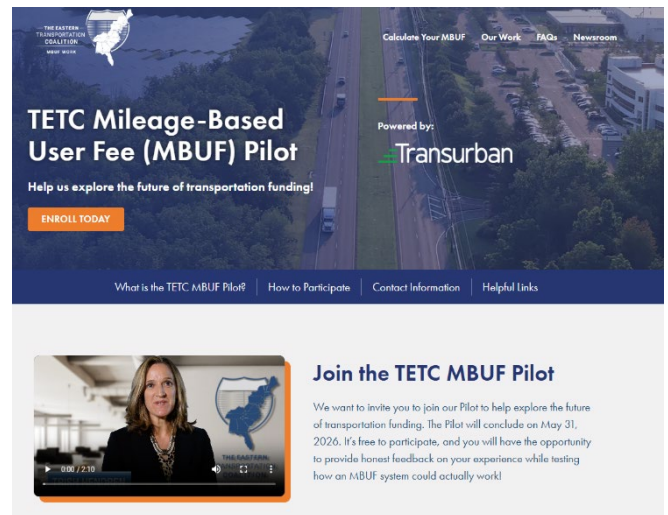
This edition of the Coalition's newsletter is all about how states are implementing annual registration fees on electric vehicles (EVs) and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) and how annual registration fees are being proposed for all vehicles (passenger and trucks) as a way to address declining transportation revenue. Read on to learn more about the ways the Coalition is exploring the issue within our multi-state MBUF Pilot, our updated calculator, and our Steering Committee.

Inside Our Latest MBUF Pilot: Including EV and PHEV Fees in Testing Transportation Funding

The Coalition, in partnership with Transurban, is currently conducting a multi-state MBUF Pilot, inviting transportation stakeholders across its 20 member states and Washington, D.C., to get a frontline view of an MBUF program.

The pilot allows participants, including EV and PHEV drivers who may currently pay additional registration fees, to experience how an MBUF could work in lieu of these fees. The pilot gives transportation stakeholders the opportunity to test mileage reporting technology, compare what they would pay under differing funding approaches, and share their feedback through surveys about what does and does not work. While no real money will be exchanged, participants will receive monthly summaries throughout the pilot showing what they *would* have paid under an MBUF compared to their current gas tax or EV fee. The pilot is free to join and prioritizes strict participant privacy and data protection. The pilot will conclude on June 30, 2026. [Enroll today!](#)

Learn more about the Coalition's MBUF Pilot and how it explores the future of transportation funding by visiting tetcmbufpilot.org.



Calculate Your MBUF | Our Work | FAQs | Newsroom

TETC Mileage-Based User Fee (MBUF) Pilot

Help us explore the future of transportation funding!

[ENROLL TODAY](#)

Powered by: **Transurban**

What is the TETC MBUF Pilot? | How to Participate | Contact Information | Helpful Links

Join the TETC MBUF Pilot

We want to invite you to join our Pilot to help explore the future of transportation funding. The Pilot will conclude on May 31, 2026. It's free to participate, and you will have the opportunity to provide honest feedback on your experience while testing how an MBUF system could actually work!

The Coalition's Online Calculator Now Includes EV Fees: See How EV and PHEV Fees Compare to MBUF

To address the transportation revenue shortfall due to increases in fuel efficiency, many states have adopted an additional registration fee for EVs (which do not contribute to the gas tax), PHEVs (which likely purchase less gas due to some miles driven as an EV). In addition, a few states have an additional registration fee for hybrid engine vehicles. In fact, there are 15 states within the Coalition region with these fees, and 41 across the country. For EV drivers, these fees are their key contribution to state transportation funds (since they do not pay fuel tax). For PHEV and hybrid drivers, the idea is that they are contributing to make up for paying less in fuel tax than other drivers.

With more of these fees coming online, The Coalition recently updated our online transportation funding calculator to factor in EV, PHEV and hybrid registration fees in the states where they have been adopted. This update allows drivers of these vehicles to accurately compare what they pay now to what they would pay if an MBUF program were adopted in their state to replace the registration fee. As a flat fee, the EV/PHEV/hybrid registration fees are not related to how much you drive. The calculator illustrates this and provides drivers with an understanding of how an MBUF would actually impact them. For example, an EV owner in New Jersey who drives 700 miles per month would pay \$7.04 less per month with an MBUF than they currently pay with their EV registration fee (currently \$260.00 annually). At an average of 1,038 miles per month, that same driver would start to pay more under an MBUF program than with an EV fee.

Try it for yourself! [Explore the updated calculator](#) and see how EV, PHEV and hybrid fees compare to MBUF.

Eastern Transportation Coalition State:

Which state do you reside in?
New Jersey

Virginia residents: For Virginia Highway Use Fee (HUF) calculations, please visit the [Virginia DMV Highway Use Fee](#) page.

What kind of car do you drive?
☐ Gas
☐ Hybrid
☐ Plugin Hybrid
☒ Electric Vehicle

Mileage:
How many miles do you drive per month?
1000

Vehicles:
Enter your vehicle's average MPG
☒ I know my vehicle's average MPG
☐ Find my vehicle's average MPG

What is the average MPG of your vehicle? Find your vehicle's MPG [here](#).
Enter MPG

Calculate Now

	Estimated Monthly Costs You Currently Pay	Estimated Monthly Costs with an MBUF
Fuel Costs (Excluding State and Federal Taxes)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mileage-Based User Fee (Miles driven x per-mile rates)	\$0.00	\$20.90
State Fuel Tax (Estimated)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Federal Fuel Tax (Estimated)	\$0.00	\$0.00
EV Registration Fee	\$21.67	\$0.00
Total Estimated Cost	\$21.67	\$20.90

Under an MBUF Rate your monthly State MBUF would be **\$0.77** less than the current State Gas Tax or EV Registration Fee structure.

Pathways to Progress: Insights from the Coalition's Steering Committee Meeting

On March 10, 2026, the Coalition convened the MBUF Steering Committee. This group includes representatives from the Coalition's STSFA grant partner states as well as key stakeholders representing a range of state- and national-level perspectives. The agenda included updates on recent MBUF work conducted by the Coalition, which included both passenger vehicle and commercial vehicle MBUF activities. It also covered MBUF updates from across the country, as well as updates on federal activity related to MBUF.

These updates were followed by interactive breakout group discussions on the relationship between registration fees and MBUF, and how these recent trends toward fees may impact or shape future funding policy decisions both at the state and federal level.

Breakout group participants observed that all four implemented MBUF programs (HI, OR, UT, VA) provide an option for residents in lieu of a flat registration fee highlighting the connection between fees and MBUF. The discussion highlighted how an EV fee can help open the conversation for a mileage-based charge as flat fees bring up fairness concerns. However, concern was expressed that as flat fees continue to increase to meet funding needs, the ability to pay at registration would prove very challenging for many households and businesses. The Coalition will build off these discussions in upcoming work to continue exploring the future of transportation funding.



Where Have We Been?

Sharing Key MBUF Insights Across the Country

December 2025:

- **The Coalition and CDM Smith Webinar:** [*Rebuilding the Link Between Road Use and Payment: Transportation Funding Solutions*](#)

February 2026:

- **MBUFA Webinar:** [*Insights and Lessons Learned from Recent STSFA Grant Work*](#)
- **IBTTA Leadership Academy:** *Transportation Funding: HTF Challenges, the Role of MBUF and Potential of Private Investment*

March 2026:

- **Maryland Legislative Hearing:** *Informational testimony on HB1374 Alternative Fuel, Fuel-Efficient, and Electric Vehicles – Highway Use Fees*
- **Maryland Asphalt Paving Conference:** *The Future of Transportation Funding: Where are we Headed and Why?*