



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Volunteers needed for California's Road Charge Pilot

Statewide pilot to study potential long-term replacement for the state's gas tax

BISHOP— California is actively seeking 5,000 volunteers to take part in a free study that could shape the way drivers are charged for road usage. Called for by the Legislature in 2014, the Road Charge Pilot Program (Pilot) will produce information for further study on the concept of a “road charge” program. State officials aim to recruit a large number of volunteers reflective of the vast geographic and socioeconomic diversity of the state. Volunteers from rural areas are being sought after to balance out volunteers from urban areas.

The Pilot Program is exploring an alternative to the antiquated gas tax - a 20th Century solution that no longer covers the costs of California's evolving transportation system. In this Pilot, drivers will record and report the miles they drive (either manually or automatically) to see whether a mileage-based system is a viable solution to the gas tax. As we use less fossil fuels to cover more ground, the gas tax can't keep up and California's transportation system is now experiencing a funding shortfall which totals \$5.7 billion a year.

That is why Senate Bill 1077 created the California Road Charge Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and why that committee spent the last year holding public meetings around the state and gathering input from a broad range of stakeholders. The result is the TAC's Recommendations Report for the pilot which describes the pilot that:

- Costs drivers nothing to participate
- Offer drivers a choice in mileage recording methods
- Protect drivers' privacy and personal information
- Determine the impacts of a road charge on various income levels
- Determine the impacts of a road charge on urban and rural drivers
- Seeks participation from at least 5,000 vehicles that represent the geographic, demographic and socioeconomic diversity of our state

The Pilot will go live in July 2016 for a nine month duration and at no cost to the participant. At the conclusion of the pilot, the California State Transportation Agency will issue a report with its findings to the Legislature, the Road Charge Technical Advisory Committee, and the



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California Transportation Commission. Following receipt of that report, the Commission will make its recommendations regarding the pilot program to the Legislature, which will consider whether to proceed with implementing a road charge system in California.

More information about the California Road Charge Pilot Program and participant volunteer information is available at www.CaliforniaRoadChargePilot.com.

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