

Local Highway Finance: Guidance for the FHWA-536 Form

Highway Information Seminar
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Resources

- ▶ *Guide to Reporting Highway Statistics*

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policy/ohpi/hss/guide.htm>

The FHWA-536 is in Chapter 11 of the Guide

- ▶ *Highway Taxes and Fees*

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ohim/hwytaxes/2008/index.htm>

More Resources

- ▶ Where to find electronic versions of the forms:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policyinformation/hss/guide/formlist.cfm>

- ▶ AASHTO Maintenance Manual:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policy/ohpi/hss/formlist.htm>

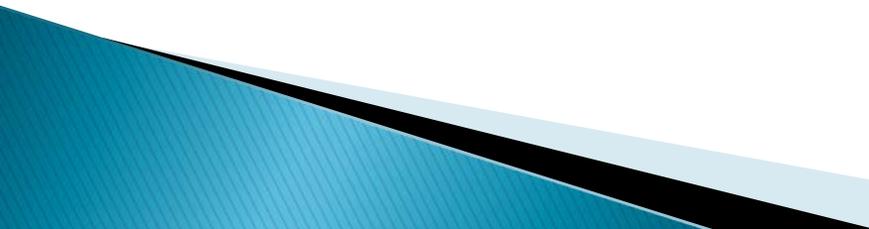
- ▶ Appendix D in the Guide

- Local finance simplified methodology

Guide: Chapter 11

- ▶ Report Identifying Receipts And Expenditures Of Local Governments
- ▶ Data required
 - Biennial report for odd-numbered data years
 - Some States report the FHWA-536
 - Every year
 - Every other year
- ▶ Report deadlines (Guide, Chapter 1)
 - Data for odd numbered years (2011, etc.)
 - Due October 1 of the following even-numbered year (October, 2012)
 - FHWA recommends doing the FHWA-536 every year

Overall Considerations

- ▶ Fiscal year versus calendar year
 - Your choice, consider:
 - Coordination with other reporting requirements
 - Best data
 - Most timely
 - ▶ General Fund funding versus dedicated funding
 - Different ways to develop and report
 - ▶ Cash versus accrual accounting
 - FHWA requests all reports on a cash basis
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General Observations

- ▶ Highway Finance re-assessment soon underway
 - ▶ Often, property taxes generate significant local revenues
 - ▶ Several States administer all roads in the State
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Form FHWA-536

- ▶ Your data permits the FHWA to develop a series of national tables depicting the financing of highway activities at the local level
 - LGF Series
 - LGB Series
- ▶ Ultimately, FHWA summarizes highway funding by all levels of government
- ▶ Local funding is a major portion of the total
 - Roughly 35%

Form FHWA-536

- ▶ Reporting four basic areas of local highway finance:
 - Section 1: Disposition of highway-user revenues
 - Section 2: Revenue identified by source and type of funds
 - Section 3: Expenditures identified by purpose or activity
 - Section 4: Local highway debt status

Section I: Disposition of Revenues

- ▶ Tracks spending of all highway–user revenues that are available to local governments
 - Local
 - Motor fuel taxes
 - Motor vehicle taxes
 - State
 - Federal
- ▶ Adjustments
 - Collection expenses
 - Non–highway purposes
 - Mass transit

Section II. Receipts for Road Purposes

- ▶ Funds from all sources applied to local highway purposes
 - ▶ Fund sources include:
 - Local highway user fees
 - Local General Fund appropriations
 - Proceeds of bonds and notes
 - Private contributions
 - State government
 - Federal government
 - ▶ Details on page 2 of Form
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Section III. Expenditures for Road Purposes

- ▶ Expenditures of funds for local highway purposes
- ▶ Local highway expenditures include:
 - Local highway capital outlays
 - Maintenance, traffic control, snow removal
 - Administration, enforcement, safety
 - Debt service on local obligations
 - Payments to State governments
 - Payments to toll facilities
- ▶ Details on page 2 of Form

Section IV. Local Highway Debt Status

- ▶ Records local government highway debt:
 - Debt status
 - Change in status
 - Amounts are recorded at par value – the face value
- ▶ See Chapter 9 for general description and instructions reporting highway debt information