



STATE OF VERMONT
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

ISSUE BRIEF

September 25, 2007

Transportation Fund – Historical Summary of Appropriations and Transfers

Fund Appropriations

Attachment I below provides a history of appropriations from the Transportation Fund from FY 1983 to FY 2008. The chart categorizes the appropriations by the type. Prior to FY 1982, Transportation Fund (TF) was appropriated to the Agency of Transportation (AOT) and the Department of Public Safety (DPS). The first appropriation to entities other than AOT or DPS for indirect transportation related expenses began with an appropriation of \$10,600 to the Department of State Buildings for the maintenance of troop headquarters, according to the Nov. 1, 1996 JTOC report. By FY 1990, the practice of appropriating TF to units of government, other than AOT and DPS had become more widespread.

In December 1991, the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee (JTOC) issued an interim report to the General Assembly recommending all revenues and expenditures related to transportation activities be reviewed by JTOC in the Fiscal Year 1994 budget. On December 1, 1992, after review of transportation related activities of each unit of government, the JTOC issued a report that endeavored to arrive at a consistent method for the use of TF external to AOT. This original JTOC formula set a percentage of TF for the total budget of each government unit. "JTOC" became the nomenclature for all TF appropriated to entities other than AOT. Between FY 1994 and FY 1997 the actual "JTOC" appropriations exceeded the levels recommended by the 1992 formula. In 1996 the Joint Fiscal Office was charged with updating the 1992 formula and did so in a report issued on November 1, 1996.

In Act 38 of the 1997 session, for state FY 1999, "JTOC" appropriations were defined as TF appropriations for anything other than AOT, transportation pay act funds, the cost of maintaining and staffing rest areas, and transportation debt service. A cap of 25% of the total of the prior year transportation fund appropriations was established for all JTOC appropriations. Over the subsequent nine years, amendments to this section of law were made primarily reducing the percentage cap downward or amending the definition. Attachment III below provides the language of these amendments in chronological order.

In Act 175 of 2006, for state FY 2007 the cap was changed to a set dollar amount. Thus far, practice has appropriated this amount only for Public Safety and Driver's Education in FY07 and FY08. The last amendment also moved the cost of information centers to the General Fund (GF) relieving the Transportation Fund of a \$4.9 million expense. Finally, in FY 2007 onetime GF of \$1.5 million was appropriated for specific transportation projects.

Fund Transfers

Transfer to other funds is another mechanism which uses Transportation Fund resources. Over the past thirty years there have been transfers from the General Fund to the Transportation Fund and vice versa depending on the particular fiscal circumstances of each fund in any given fiscal year. Attachment II shows the thirty year history of transfers between the two funds. Over the past 10 years, the balance between the two funds shows that \$41.5 million more General Fund has been transferred to the Transportation Fund. When the look back period expands to 30 years, the balance between the two funds drops to \$29.2 million.

There are also transfers of \$800,000 annually to the Downtown Fund, and \$370,000 annually to the Recreational Trail Fund.

Other transfers are made as required to the TF stabilization reserve fund and for operation of AOT's central garage for maintenance and replacement of state highway equipment.

ATTACHMENT I

Transportation Fund Appropriations - By Type (000,000)							
	Direct			Other		Indirect	
FY	AOT	Debt Service	Pay Act	Info Centers	Public Safety	All other	TF TOTAL
1983	51.31	13.01	2.80	-	6.34	0.82	74.27
1984	61.41	12.73	2.66	-	6.81	0.82	84.44
1985	66.19	12.98	1.30	-	7.94	0.82	89.21
1986	70.00	12.28	1.46	-	8.84	1.60	94.18
1987	85.95	11.39	2.18	-	9.41	2.74	111.68
1988	85.24	10.89	2.20	-	10.45	3.73	112.52
1989	87.39	9.47	2.09	-	11.16	3.21	113.31
1990	100.26	8.03	2.20	-	12.70	3.47	126.65
1991	99.09	7.31	-	-	13.13	4.47	123.99
1992	95.11	6.76	1.39	-	14.17	7.29	124.72
1993	84.55	7.46	0.21	-	14.54	15.02	121.78
1994	94.13	5.43	1.12	-	14.28	15.63	130.59
1995	105.98	6.17	0.85	-	18.67	17.18	148.85
1996	111.46	5.11	1.37	-	19.22	20.25	157.42
1997	112.10	4.40	0.09	-	20.12	21.97	158.67
1998	114.11	3.90	1.35	-	20.87	21.08	161.31
1999	127.19	3.86	2.24	-	20.95	21.58	176.06
2000	141.49	3.79	1.46	2.58	21.13	19.07	189.52
2001	151.02	3.13	2.45	2.73	22.24	21.76	203.32
2002	158.66	2.91	2.45	3.33	23.95	21.62	212.91
2003	160.58	2.84	2.80	3.83	21.35	19.72	211.11
2004	172.29	2.41	-	4.18	22.44	20.65	221.96
2005	177.59	2.36	1.46	4.10	22.44	17.40	225.34
2006	172.43	2.15	1.25	4.78	22.80	16.65	220.07
2007	184.82	2.09	2.01	-	34.94	0.13	223.99
2008	192.67	1.99	1.21	-	34.88	0.13	230.88

Source: Budget History sheet #115914

ATTACHMENT II

Inter Fund Transfers			
Fiscal Year	Transfer General Fund to T-Fund	Transfer T-Fund to General Fund	Net transfer
1976	0	250,000	(250,000)
1977	0	0	0
1978	0	0	0
1979	0	0	0
1980	1,500,000	0	1,500,000
1981	6,781,641	0	6,781,641
1982	0	0	0
1983	0	0	0
1984	869,000	0	869,000
1985	0	869,000	(869,000)
1986	2,000,000	2,000,000	0
1987	1,307,324	0	1,307,324
1988	0	0	0
1989	0	0	0
1990	1,650,000	0	1,650,000
1991	1,350,000	0	1,350,000
1992	0	0	0
1993	0	0	0
1994	0	21,409,195	(21,409,195)
1995	0	1,500,000	(1,500,000)
1996	0	6,650,000	(6,650,000)
1997	4,900,000	0	4,900,000
1998	1,939,836	0	1,939,836
1999	0	143,000	(143,000)
2000	0	0	0
2001	6,150,000	0	6,150,000
2002	13,850,000	0	13,850,000
2003	0	6,449,528	(6,449,528)
2004	3,408,000	0	3,408,000
2005	4,739,450	0	4,739,450
2006	10,018,030	0	10,018,030
2007	8,000,000	0	8,000,000
2008			
Total 1977-07	68,463,281	39,270,723	29,192,558
Last 10 years	48,105,316	6,592,528	41,512,788

ATTACHMENT III

Act 38 of 1997

Sec. 18. TRANSPORTATION FUND APPROPRIATIONS

In fiscal year 1999, the maximum amount of transportation funds that may be appropriated for the support of government, other than for the Agency of Transportation, transportation pay act funds, the cost of maintaining and staffing interstate rest areas, and transportation debt service, shall not exceed 25% of the total of the prior fiscal year transportation fund appropriations. In fiscal year 2000 and thereafter, the maximum amount of transportation funds that may be appropriated for the support of government, other than for the Agency of Transportation, transportation pay act funds, the cost of maintaining and staffing interstate rest areas, and transportation debt service, shall not exceed 24.5% of the total of the prior fiscal year transportation fund appropriations.

Act 1 of 1999

Sec. 93. Sec. 18 of No. 38 of the Acts of 1997 is amended to read:

Sec. 18. TRANSPORTATION FUND APPROPRIATIONS

In fiscal year 1999, the maximum amount of transportation funds that may be appropriated for the support of government, other than for the Agency of Transportation, transportation pay act funds, the cost of maintaining and staffing interstate rest areas, and transportation debt service, shall not exceed 25% of the total of the prior fiscal year transportation fund appropriations. In fiscal year 2000 and thereafter, the maximum amount of transportation funds that may be appropriated for the support of government, other than for the Agency of Transportation, transportation pay act funds, the cost of maintaining and staffing interstate rest areas, and transportation debt service, shall not exceed 24.5% of the total of the prior fiscal year transportation fund appropriations (less amounts appropriated that are supported by indirect cost reimbursement from federal agencies).

Act 18 of 1999

Sec. 41x. Sec. 93 of No. 1 of the Acts of 1999 is amended to read:

Sec. 93. Sec. 18 of No. 38 of the Acts of 1997 is amended to read:

Sec. 18. TRANSPORTATION FUND APPROPRIATIONS

In fiscal year 1999, the maximum amount of transportation funds that may be appropriated for the support of government, other than for the Agency of Transportation, transportation pay act funds, the cost of maintaining and staffing interstate rest areas, and transportation debt service, shall not exceed 25% of the total of the prior fiscal year transportation fund appropriations. In fiscal year 2000 and thereafter, the maximum amount of transportation funds that may be appropriated for the support of government, other than for the Agency of Transportation, transportation pay act funds, the cost of maintaining and staffing ~~*[interstate]*~~ rest areas, construction of transportation capital facilities used by the agency of transportation, and transportation debt service, shall not exceed 24.5% of the total of the prior fiscal year transportation fund appropriations (less amounts appropriated that are supported by indirect cost reimbursement from federal agencies).

Act 156 of 2000

Sec. 38. Sec. 41x of No. 18 of the Acts of 1999 is amended to read:

Sec. 41x. TRANSPORTATION FUND APPROPRIATIONS

~~*[In fiscal year 1999, the maximum amount of transportation funds that may be appropriated for the support of government, other than for the Agency of Transportation, transportation pay act funds, the cost of maintaining and staffing interstate rest areas, and transportation debt service, shall not exceed 25% of the total of the prior fiscal year transportation fund appropriations.]*~~ In fiscal year ~~*[2000]*~~ 2002 and thereafter, the maximum amount of transportation funds that may be appropriated for the support of government, other than for the Agency of Transportation, transportation pay act funds, the cost of maintaining and staffing rest areas, construction of transportation capital facilities used by the agency of transportation, and transportation debt service, shall not exceed ~~*[24.5%]*~~ 23 percent of the total of the prior fiscal year transportation fund appropriations ~~*[(less amounts appropriated that are supported by indirect cost reimbursement from federal agencies)]*~~.

Act 141 of 2002

Sec. 42. 19 V.S.A. § 11a is added to read:

§ 11a. TRANSPORTATION FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT

The maximum amount of transportation funds that may be appropriated for the support of government, other than for the agency of transportation, transportation pay act funds, the cost of maintaining and staffing rest areas, construction of transportation capital facilities used by the agency of transportation, and transportation debt service, shall not exceed 20.5 percent of the total of the prior fiscal year transportation fund appropriations.

Act 56 of 2003

Sec. 30. 19 V.S.A. § 11a is amended to read:

§ 11a. TRANSPORTATION FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT

~~The~~ For fiscal year 2005 and thereafter, the maximum amount of transportation funds that may be appropriated for the support of government, other than for the agency of transportation, transportation pay act funds, the cost of maintaining and staffing rest areas, construction of transportation capital facilities used by the agency of transportation, and transportation debt service, shall ~~not exceed 20.5~~ be the lower of \$43,000,000.00 or 20.0 percent of the total of the prior fiscal year transportation fund appropriations.

Act 68 of 2003

Sec. 38. 19 V.S.A. § 11a is amended to read:

§ 11a. TRANSPORTATION FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT

The maximum amount of transportation funds that may be appropriated for the support of government, other than for the agency of transportation, transportation pay act funds, the cost of maintaining and staffing rest areas, construction of transportation capital facilities used by the

agency of transportation, and transportation debt service, shall not exceed ~~20.5~~ 19 percent of the total of the prior fiscal year transportation fund appropriations.

Act 160 of 2004

Sec. 16. 19 V.S.A. § 11a is amended to read:

§ 11a. TRANSPORTATION FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT

~~The~~ For fiscal year 2006 and thereafter, the maximum amount of transportation funds that may be appropriated for the support of government, other than for the agency of transportation, transportation pay act funds, the cost of maintaining and staffing rest areas, construction of transportation capital facilities used by the agency of transportation, and transportation debt service, shall not exceed ~~19~~ 18.5 percent of the total of the prior fiscal year transportation fund appropriations.

Act 80 of 2005

Sec. 43. 19 V.S.A. § 11a is amended to read:

§ 11a. TRANSPORTATION FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT

~~For fiscal year 2006 and thereafter, the~~ The maximum amount of transportation funds that may be appropriated for the support of government, other than for the agency of transportation, the transportation board, transportation pay act funds, the cost of maintaining and staffing rest areas, construction of transportation capital facilities used by the agency of transportation, and transportation debt service, for fiscal year 2006 shall not exceed 18.5 18.0 percent of the total of the prior fiscal year transportation fund appropriations and for fiscal year 2007 shall not exceed \$38,221,563.00.

Act 175 of 2006

Sec. 51. 19 V.S.A. § 11a is amended to read:

§ 11a. TRANSPORTATION FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT

The maximum amount of transportation funds that may be appropriated for the support of government, other than for the agency of transportation, the transportation board, transportation pay act funds, ~~the cost of maintaining and staffing rest areas~~, construction of transportation capital facilities used by the agency of transportation, and transportation debt service, for fiscal year 2006 shall not exceed 18.0 percent of the total of the prior fiscal year transportation fund appropriations and for fiscal year 2007 and thereafter shall not exceed \$38,221,563 \$35,440,855.00.