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For Immediate Release

AAA: IDAHO'S HIGHWAY FUNDING STRUCTURE NEEDS AN OVERHAUL

Auto club helps write a plan to address inequities between user groups

BOISE – (Feb. 18, 2015) – Any solution to Idaho's \$262 million annual transportation funding shortfall that relies on increases to traditional user-pay gas taxes and registration fees needs to start with the premise of getting every user group to pay their fair share, says AAA Idaho.

"We are delivering a two-pronged message that Idaho faces a quarter-billion-dollar funding shortage and that Idaho's user-pay system itself is in major disrepair, undercharging and overcharging various user groups," says Dave Carlson AAA Idaho's public affairs director.

The organization, which represents 120,000 member motorists in Idaho, is pitching a legislative solution to both problems. "It's important to understand how we got here, what's not working, and what a good solution should look like," Carlson said.

"Everyone is going to have to ante up more. The pill can be easier to swallow if we do this the right way," Carlson said.

Idaho's 2010 Highway Cost Allocation Study (HCAS) confirmed \$10 million annual losses to the Highway Distribution Account starting with legislative action in 2000 that repealed the state's heavy truck tax system, replacing it with a registration fee structure.

Several state funded studies—including the 2010 HCAS—show Idaho's current user-pay funding structure benefits long-haul interstate trucks, while overcharging passenger vehicles, pickups and Idaho-based trucks.

"Idahoans get it," Carlson said. A recurring sentiment in three statewide surveys on the topic of funding is that the heavy rigs putting the most miles on Idaho's roads and bridges need to take a more active role in paying for the system, he said.

AAA says historical revenue and spending data can be used to identify and correct the deficiencies in the existing structure. AAA's **Better Roads-Fair Funding** (www.betterroadsforIdaho.com) initiative launched in 2013 promotes a fair, transparent and accountable solution to funding.

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AAA Idaho is affiliated with AAA Oregon/Idaho, providing more than 750,000 members with travel insurance, financial and automotive related services. AAA serves 54 million member motorists in North America.

Editor: An audio version of this news release is available on the AAA News Hotline. In Boise, call 342-9391. Outside Boise, call toll free, 1-800-999-9391. Ask for the AAA News Hotline.