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Iowa's Gas Tax Could Go Up

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Iowans could soon be paying more at the pump.

Governor Branstad's Citizen's Advisory Commission is recommending an increase in the state's gas tax in order to pay for more road projects.

Presently, for every gallon of gas pumped about 22 cents is going to the state to fund road and bridge projects. The Commission believes that number needs to increase by 8-10 cents because it has not been raised since 1989. If the statehouse approves the recommendation, over 200 million dollars would be raised to use on road and bridge projects throughout the state.

Governor Branstad has not come out one way or another as to whether he supports the proposal but his office stressed to KWQC today the need to consider user fees to make sure Iowa's roads and bridges stay safe.

Branstad's communications director, Tim Albrecht, told KWQC "It's a matter of priorities and if we want to fund our roads and bridges we can either put ourself into massive debt like other states or we can do so on a pay as you go basis."

This issue is already generating controversy in the state, with the tea party already encouraging conservatives in the legislature not to vote for an increase.

The commission will vote on this proposal on October 26. If its passes its recommendations will head to the State House.

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Joe St. George reported this story originally on KWQC News at 5 and 6.



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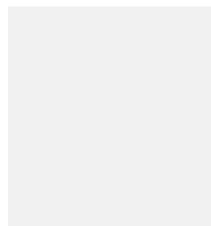


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