

## Highlights of the Department of Transportation Budget

The Conference Budget for the Department of Transportation (DOT) for FY 2022-23 includes net appropriations of \$4.8 billion, which is \$595.3 million above the FY 2021-22 amount, a 14% increase. The highlights of the Transportation adjustments are as follows:

### Highway Fund

The increase to the Highway Fund is partly due to the increased forecast of revenues, which accounts for \$118.7 million above the FY 2021-22 budgeted amount, a 5% increase. These revenues include the motor fuels tax, Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) licenses and fees, and Highway Use Short Term Leases. Additionally, 2% of the State sales tax collection, which is \$193.1 million, will be transferred into the Highway Fund beginning in FY 2022-23. In total, the Highway Fund is \$311.8 million over the FY 2021-22 budgeted amount, a 12% increase.

### Highway Trust Fund

The increase to the Highway Trust Fund is due to the increased forecast of revenues, which accounts for \$283.5 million above the FY 2021-22 budget amount, an 18% increase. These revenues include Highway Use Tax, motor fuels tax, and other DMV fees.

### Committee Report Items (Page J1-J24)

- Provides funds for the Advanced Acquisition for Hardship Claims for **right-of-way purchases**. The program allows DOT to purchase land for future projects when delays of projects create a hardship for the property owner. (\$109.8 million NR)
- Provides funds to renegotiate contracts awarded on or before March 1, 2022, to pay for the **inflation** costs of construction materials. DOT is required to create a standard form for contractors to use to itemize the materials. Contractors will have 60 days from the passage of the budget to submit the adjustment request and DOT has 30 days to respond. (\$135 million NR)
- Appropriates \$342 million of the **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) receipts** for highway construction, bridges, the Appalachian Development Highway System, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, airports, and transit.
- Provides additional funds to increase the grant program for **commercial services airports** for capital improvements. This is in addition to the \$75 million provided in the 2021 Appropriations Act, for a total of \$100 million in FY 2022-23. (\$25 million R)
- Provides additional funds for the operations of **visitor centers**. These funds are in addition to \$400,000 provided in the 2021 Appropriations Act, for a total of \$640,000 net appropriations for visitor centers. (\$240,000 R)

### Special Provisions

- (Sec. 41.6) Increases the percentage of bridge program funds that may be used for **improvements to culverts** from 10 percent to 20 percent.
- (Sec. 41.10) Directs the DMV Commissioner to adopt rules to allow certain qualified **drivers education instructors to administer eye exams** and to provide required documentation to DMV.