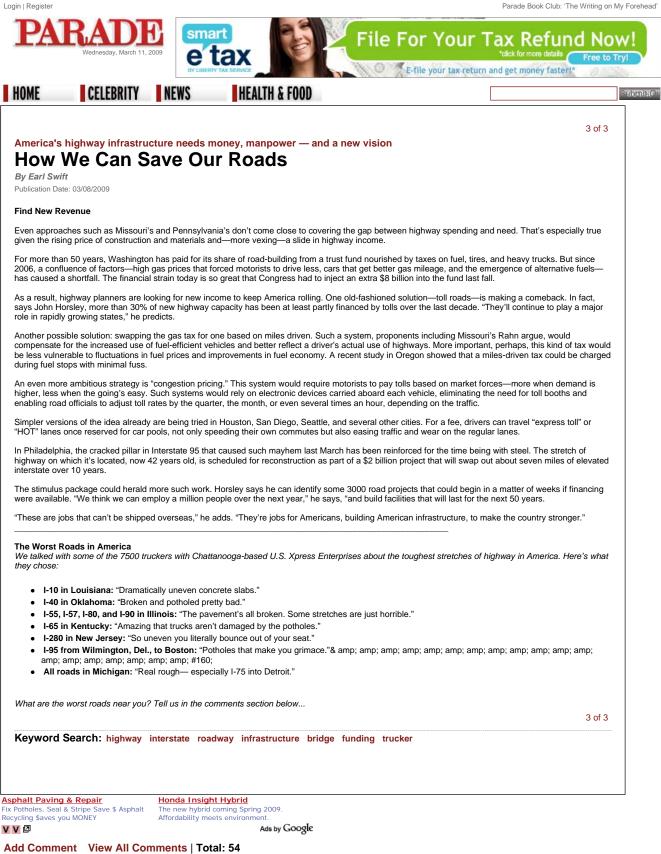
Parade Book Club: 'The Writing on My Forehead'



Road Taxes

by plcf posted: 03/09/2009 10:12:PM

I understand that the current fuel tax is not enough to cover the cost of upkeep for our highways. I also realize that many people think that Prius drivers are getting a big break under the current fuel tax system. Many think this is very unfair. I would be one of them if I thought that a Prius damaged the roads as much as other cars. The truth is that weight must be taken into account when imposing a fair mileage tax. When calculating the damage one vehicle does compared to another use the following formula (only valid for vehicles with the same number of axles):

### (light vehicle weight / heavy vehicle weight)^4

This shows how much more road damage is done by the heavy vehicle compared to the light vehicle.

An example is a Toyota Camry that weighs 3483 pounds and a Toyota Prius that weighs 2934. The weight ratio is 1.187. When raised to the forth power this becomes 1.986. So the Camry does almost twice the road damage as the Prius, yet it is only a 18.7% heavier.

Under the current fuel tax system the Camry (25 MPG) pays 1.840 times the Prius (46 MPG) for the same miles driven. Under a fair mileage system the Camry would pay 1.986 times the amount of the Prius. One extreme example is the Smart fortwo and the Camry. The fortwo only does 7% the road damage as the Camry. The other extreme is the Hummer H2 SUV which does 11.4 times the road damage as the Camry. The most extreme is the Hummer H2 survey the Hummer under the current system only pays about 3.6 times the tax as the Smart Car for the same miles driven.

From the examples you can see that if the goal of the road tax is to maintain the roads and to tax people based on the damage their vehicles do to the roads, the current system is unfair to small vehicles. Even the not so small best MPG Prius comes out worse then a mid size sedan. If the technical and privacy problems of a mileage tax can be worked out I would be in favor of the tax if and only if road damage is taken into account.

### **REPLY** | Number of replies:0

## Road Taxes

### by plcf posted: 03/09/2009 10:10:PM

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### **REPLY** | Number of replies:0

## The Worst Roads in america

by onei3430 posted: 03/09/2009 10:10:PM

I-59, Birmingham to Chattanooga, Tn. I lost 2 hubcabs on one trip home from Birmingham! I like most oters people drive mainly in the left lane, except when I have to get in the right lane for a short distance. Can't anyone help?

## **REPLY** | Number of replies:4

#### ‡ <u>RE:</u> by hugo budzien worst roads

worst roads

## posted:03/11/2009 10:19:AM

## REPLY TO THIS

## ‡ RE: by gilletlb saving roads

saving roads

## posted:03/11/2009 08:51:AM

### REPLY TO THIS |

‡ RE: by may1960 worst roads in ...

### worst roads in america

#### posted:03/10/2009 12:11:PM

<Pi>Highway's 169 and 136 in northern Missouri are really bad, they have lots of pot holes and we seem never to get satisfactory repairs since we don't live close to an

"important" metropolitan city. In this area be careful if you drive down a blacktop road, they are even worse and dangerous to drive on. neglected in the country!

## REPLY TO THIS |

## RE: by topdogblu the worst roads...

## the worst roads in america

# posted:03/10/2009 07:45:AM

-530 north pine bluff to little rock arkansas, the roads are horrible, they patch and patch the roads and they get worse, ex-governor huckabee made a statement during his run for the president about how wonderful the roads are in arkansas, it's obvious he did not travel I-530 too often

# REPLY TO THIS |

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