



Reduction of Clackamas County Vehicle Registration Fee for Trailers

April 21, 2022

WHAT: The Board of Commissioners has approved reducing the countywide vehicle registration fee (VRF) for trailers from \$30 each year to \$5 each year.

- The fee applies to utility/light trailers with a loaded weight of 8,000 pounds or less that are required by state law to pay vehicle registration fees
- The fee does NOT apply to trailers that are already exempt from the vehicle registration fee, such as travel trailers, campers and motor homes.

WHY: While trailers cause some damage to roadways and shoulders, they do not impact the roads to the same extent as personal cars and trucks, so it is logical that the fee for these vehicles be less than the fee for motorized vehicles.

WHEN: The Clackamas County Board of Commissioners approved the change on April 21, 2022. County staff is working with Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) staff to institute the change in the state collection system. The expectation is that the reduced fee will go into effect in January 2023. Trailer owners will be required to pay the current fee until the change is made by the state.

SOURCE OF RECOMMENDATION: The county received concerns from the public about charging the same amount to register trailers as to register motorized vehicles. The issue was presented to the County's Community Road Fund Advisory Committee, which recommended reducing the trailer fee to \$5 per year.

BACKGROUND: The Clackamas County VRF provides a consistent source of revenue to fund county and city transportation construction projects important to residents and businesses. The current fee is \$30/year for most vehicles and trailers and \$15/year for motorcycles. The fee is paid by county residents when they register their vehicle with state Driver and Motor Vehicle (DMV) Services every two years.

YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW...

Why not just eliminate the fee for trailers?

State law requires that any vehicle registration fee imposed by the state, county or city include a fee for utility/light trailers.

If the fee is reduced and I already paid a \$30 fee for my trailer, can I get a refund?

No. VRF collections are administered by the state and it is not possible to identify and return funds that were charged in accordance with a legally approved process.

Will this reduce my state trailer fee, too?

No, this reduction applies only to the Clackamas County VRF and will not impact vehicle registration fees for trailers from the state or any other jurisdiction.

For more information:

Website: <https://www.clackamas.us/transportation/crf>

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