

**Public Informational Meeting – Proposed Local Vehicle Registration Fee  
Surcharge or “Wheel Tax”  
Council Chambers of City Municipal Building  
115 West Pleasant Street, Portage, WI  
November 10, 2016, 6:00 p.m.**

(This may constitute a meeting of the Common Council if a quorum of members are present; but no business of the Council will be taken up.)

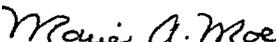
## NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the City of Portage will conduct a public informational meeting on the proposed Local Vehicle Registration Fee Surcharge or "Wheel Tax" for 2017. The meeting will be held in in the Council Chambers of the Portage Municipal Building at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 10, 2016.

The 2017 City of Portage Budget includes the implementation of a \$20 surcharge on vehicles registered in the City of Portage. The revenue from this surcharge will be used for additional road improvements. Information on how the fee will be collected and how the funds will be used will be presented followed by an opportunity to ask questions.

The meeting is open to the public and handicap accessible. Information on this meeting will also be available by visiting the City of Portage website at [www.portagewi.gov](http://www.portagewi.gov) or contacting City Hall at (608) 742-2176.

**CITY OF PORTAGE**

  
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Marie A. Moe, WCPC, MMC, City Clerk

# CITY OF PORTAGE

115 West Pleasant Street  
Portage, Wisconsin 53901  
Telephone: (608) 742-2176 • Fax: (608) 742-8623



*Where the North Begins*

## **Municipal Vehicle Registration Fee (Wheel Tax) Frequently Asked Questions**

November, 2016

### **1. What is the Municipal Vehicle Registration Fee?**

It is a \$20 fee that is added to the normal state vehicle registration fees. This fee is specifically designated to fund transportation related purposes.

### **2. When will the fee be implemented?**

The new ordinance will take effect on January 1, 2017 and collection for vehicles that are subject to the fee by Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) will begin on either of these dates:

- Renewal of current registrations expiring the first day of the month or later.
- Issuance of new registrations with a date of operation or dealer delivery date on the second day of the month or later.

### **3. How is the fee collected?**

WisDOT collects the fee at the time of first registration and at the time of each subsequent registration renewal. WisDOT sends vehicle registration renewal notices at least 30 days before their plates expire. The renewal notice will show the total fee due including the \$20.00 wheel tax for each vehicle that is subject to the fee.

### **4. Can the revenues received from wheel tax payments be used for any purpose?**

Counties and municipalities must use the moneys from wheel tax payments for transportation related purposes only (s. 341.35(6r), Wis. Stats.). "Highway" is defined by state law to mean "all public ways and thoroughfares and bridges on the same." Courts have interpreted "highways" to include trails because they are "public ways and thoroughfares and bridges on the same." "Sidewalk" means that "portion of a highway between the curb lines, or the lateral lines of a roadway, and the adjacent property lines, constructed for use of pedestrians."

### **5. What vehicles are subject to the wheel tax?**

Automobiles or trucks registered under 8,000 lbs gross weight and customarily kept in the municipality or county that enacted the tax. This includes:

- Automobiles, vans and Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV) that qualify as a passenger vehicle,
- Trucks and dual-purpose motor homes (trucks that can be equipped with a slide-in camper unit) registered at a gross weight of 8,000 lbs. or less.

Read more details on vehicles subject to the wheel tax at <http://wisconsin.gov/Pages/dmv/vehicles/title-plates/wheeltax.aspx>.

**6. What vehicles are exempt from this fee?**

- Buses, motorcycles, mopeds, motor homes, low-speed vehicles and trailers,
- Trucks registered at more than 8,000 pounds or registered as Farm or Dual Purpose Farm,
- Vehicles registered as Antique, Collector, Driver Education, Historic Military Vehicle, Hobbyist, Human Service Vehicle, Low Speed Vehicle, Medal of Honor, Municipal, State-Owned or Special X and one vehicle with Ex-Prisoner Of War registration issued to any qualified individual,
- Any vehicle with registration issued by a Wisconsin Indian tribe or band,
- Vehicles displaying Dealer, Distributor, Finance Company or Manufacturer plates.

**7. What about vehicles with Collector plates?**

- “Collector” plates, issued to vehicles more than 20 years old, are non-expiring and **exempt from wheel tax.**
- “Collector special” plates are issued for any auto or light truck owned by someone who has “Collector” plates and are **subject to wheel tax.**

**8. What is the policy for refunds and proration?**

A wheel tax is never prorated. The full fee is required whenever it is collected. Refund requests of the wheel tax fee paid in error may be directed to the WisDOT Research and Information Unit:

Mail: PO Box 8070, Madison, WI 53708-8070  
 Email: [VehicleQuestions@dot.wi.gov](mailto:VehicleQuestions@dot.wi.gov)  
 Telephone: (608) 266-1466

**9. What will the City of Portage use the Wheel Tax funds for?**

The 2017 budget is proposed to include an additional \$200,000 from Wheel Tax revenue that will be used to increase spending on crack sealing, chip sealing, re-surfacing of streets, traffic signal & sign maintenance and sidewalk repairs in the City.

**10. Where can I get more information on the wheel tax and impact on my vehicle registration?**

A public information meeting will be held at Portage Municipal Building on **Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Council Chambers or you may contact Portage City Hall at (608)742-2176.