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Tax-by-the-mile rejected by AZ transportation experts

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Taxing motorists on how many miles they drive instead of how much gas they buy is an idea that wouldn't fly in Arizona, according to transportation experts.

The idea was floated by Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood last week, but quickly rejected by President Barack Obama.

LaHood said gas taxes can no longer be expected to fund highway and bridge construction.

Linda Gorman of AAA Arizona said she doubts the idea would have much support in Arizona.

"For Arizona, I would be very surprised, because while, in many instances the country has gone more liberal, Arizona has stayed a little bit more conservative, so it's typically not a discussion that bodes well in this environment."

Gorman added, "It would be a very interesting concept, interesting discussion here in a state where you have people living where they can afford to and they're just driving to their jobs."

Gorman said something needs to be done -- she's not sure what.

"We're not maintaining the roads we currently have -- not in Arizona, but across the country. We're not investing enough for generations to come," she said.

Laura Douglas doesn't know if tax-by-the-mile would ever happen.

"It would really depend on a lot more guidance from our federal lawmakers before ADOT or the state Transportation Board would get involved in something like that," Douglas said.

The idea of tax by the mile is gaining ground in some states -- like Idaho, North Carolina and Rhode Island.