



## **EV Owners? They Pay Money For Roads**

2/15/25

House Speaker [Matt HALL \(R-Richland Township\)](#) suggested Thursday that charging electric vehicle owners a little more a year could be part of a long-term road funding strategy (See “[Hall: EV Owners Pay More For Roads](#),” 2/13/25).

But Charles **GRIFFITH**, director of Climate and Energy for the Ecology Center in Ann Arbor, noted today that not only do electric vehicle owners already pay a surcharge for their cars, in many cases they pay more annually than owners of gas-powered vehicles.

Citing a [2019 Ecology Center report](#), a car with an internal combustion engine that gets 50 miles to the gallon pays a \$170 state registration fee and \$62.40 a year in state gas taxes, presuming the car racks up 12,000 miles a year. That’s a total of \$232.40 a year.

The registration for a Chevy Volt plug-in hybrid runs \$218 a year on top of 47.50 in fees and \$37.14 in gas taxes, again presuming it travels 12,000 miles a year. That equals out to \$302.64 a year.

Finally, an all-electric Tesla model 3 comes with a \$254 registration fee and \$135 in additional fees for a total of \$389 in annual state fees.

“EVs should certainly pay their fair share, but shouldn’t be penalized,” Griffith said. “Less than 1 percent of registered vehicles in Michigan are EVs. Higher fees on EVs would raise minimal new revenues.

“I suspect Speaker Hall knows this and is blustering, but if he doesn’t he is seriously misinformed about our state’s current road funding fee/tax system, at least with regards to EVs,” he said.

Griffith is suggesting the state move forward with a vehicle miles travelled (VMT) fee for electric vehicles that comes as close as possible to what gas-burning cars pay in gas taxes, something the County Road Association of Michigan (CRA) is advocating for.

The Department of Transportation is in the midst of studying a “miles drive” funding source for roads that is separate from the Governor’s road funding proposal (See “[Gov Proposes Road Usage Charge Pilot](#),” 2/7/25).