

# America Fast Forward: CREATING JOBS THE RIGHT WAY

## Presentation to Rail~Volution



**David Yale**

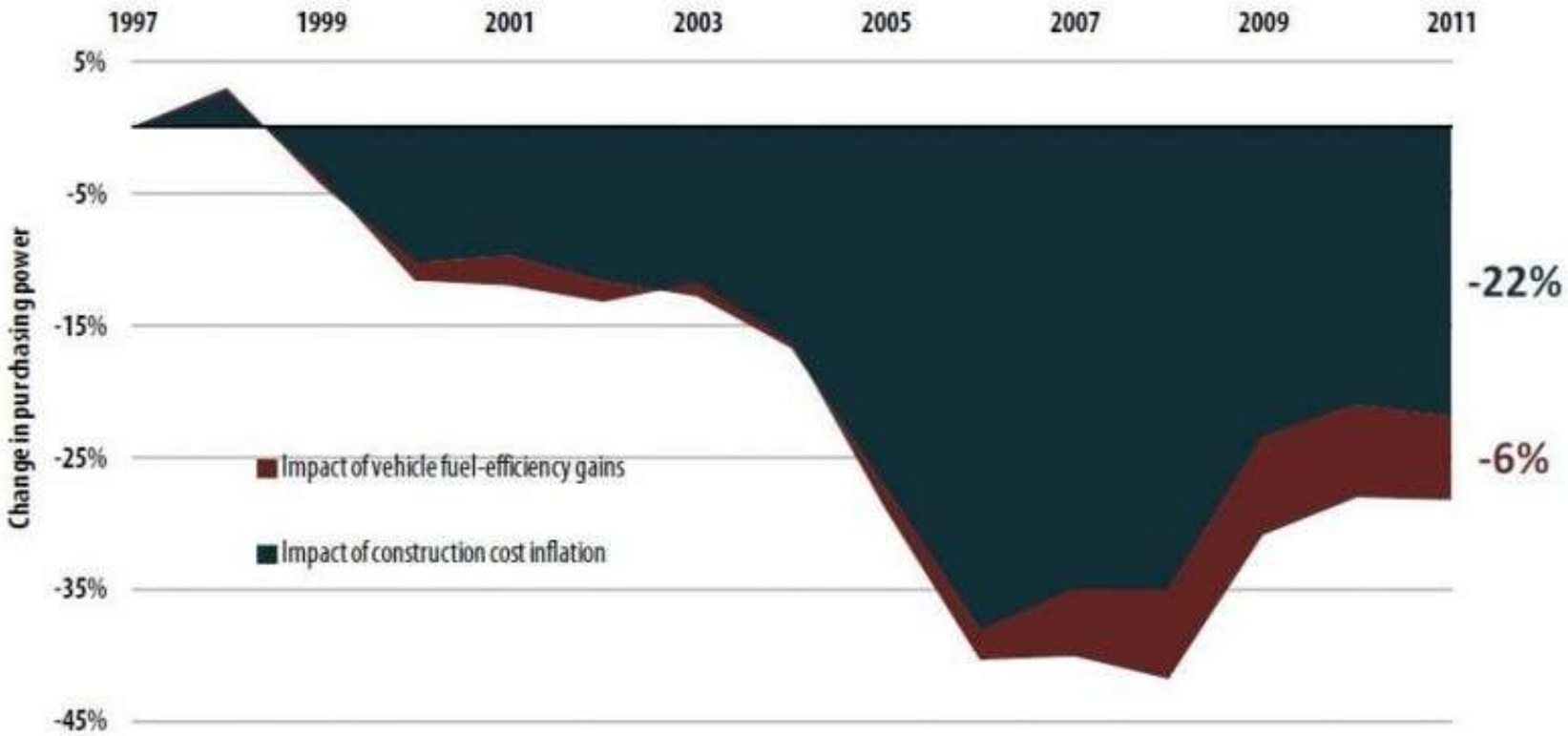
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# Financial Environment: Purchasing Power of the Federal Gas Tax

**Figure 1: Purchasing Power of the Gas Tax Has Dropped 28 Percent Since 1997**  
*Decline is Due Mostly to Construction Cost Inflation*



Source: ITEP analysis of data from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

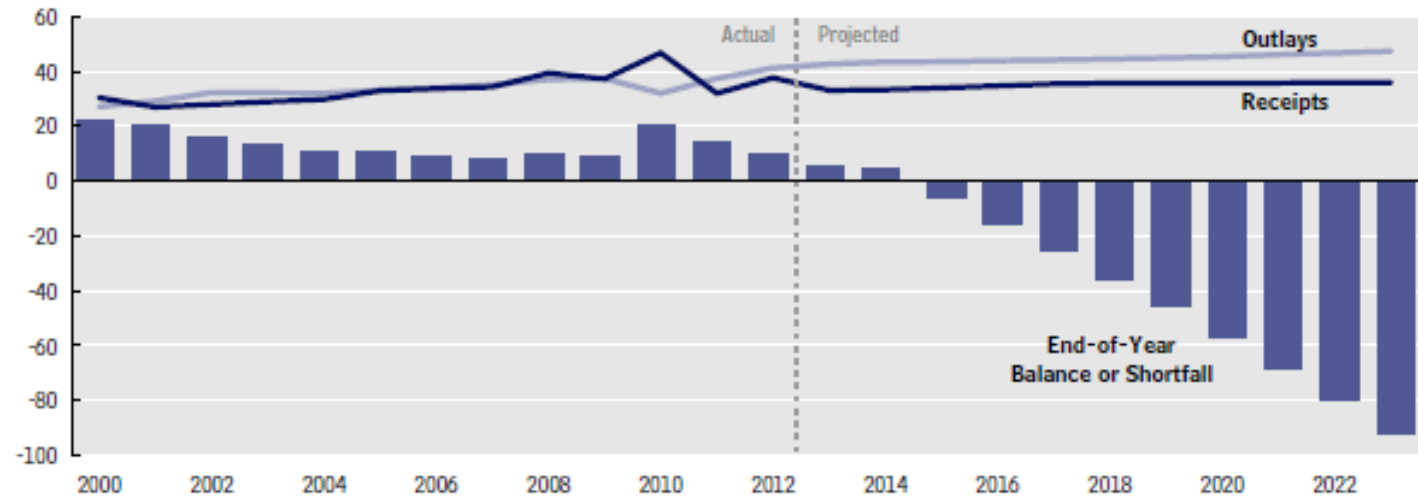


# Highway Account Receipts, Outlays and Balances (1998-2022) billions of nominal dollars

**Figure 1.**

## Receipts, Outlays, and Balances of the Highway Trust Fund

(Billions of dollars)



Source: Congressional Budget Office.

Note: Estimates are based on CBO's February 2013 baseline projections.

**Notes:**

Assumptions are based on CBO's February 2013 baseline projections, updated for MAP-21 enactment.

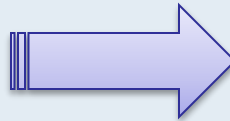
CBO's baseline is calculated by increasing the obligation limits set for current year by a measure of projected inflation and by assuming extension of the current tax on fuels and on heavy vehicles.

The Highway Trust Fund cannot incur negative balances. Negative balances are illustrative of the cumulative deficit that would be incurred by the Highway Account under CBO's baseline scenario.



# Point/Counter Point: Sales Tax on Gas

A sales tax on gas is less visible than a per gallon tax and it is bad that most people have no idea what they pay for highways



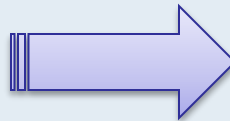
The overall price of gas is the user cost message, not just the tax.

A sales tax is vulnerable to decreases in oil prices and would therefore be a less reliable funding source for transportation



Gas supply and demand will keep pace with inflation, per gallon approaches do not. Global demand for oil will outstrip supplies in the post-petroleum era.

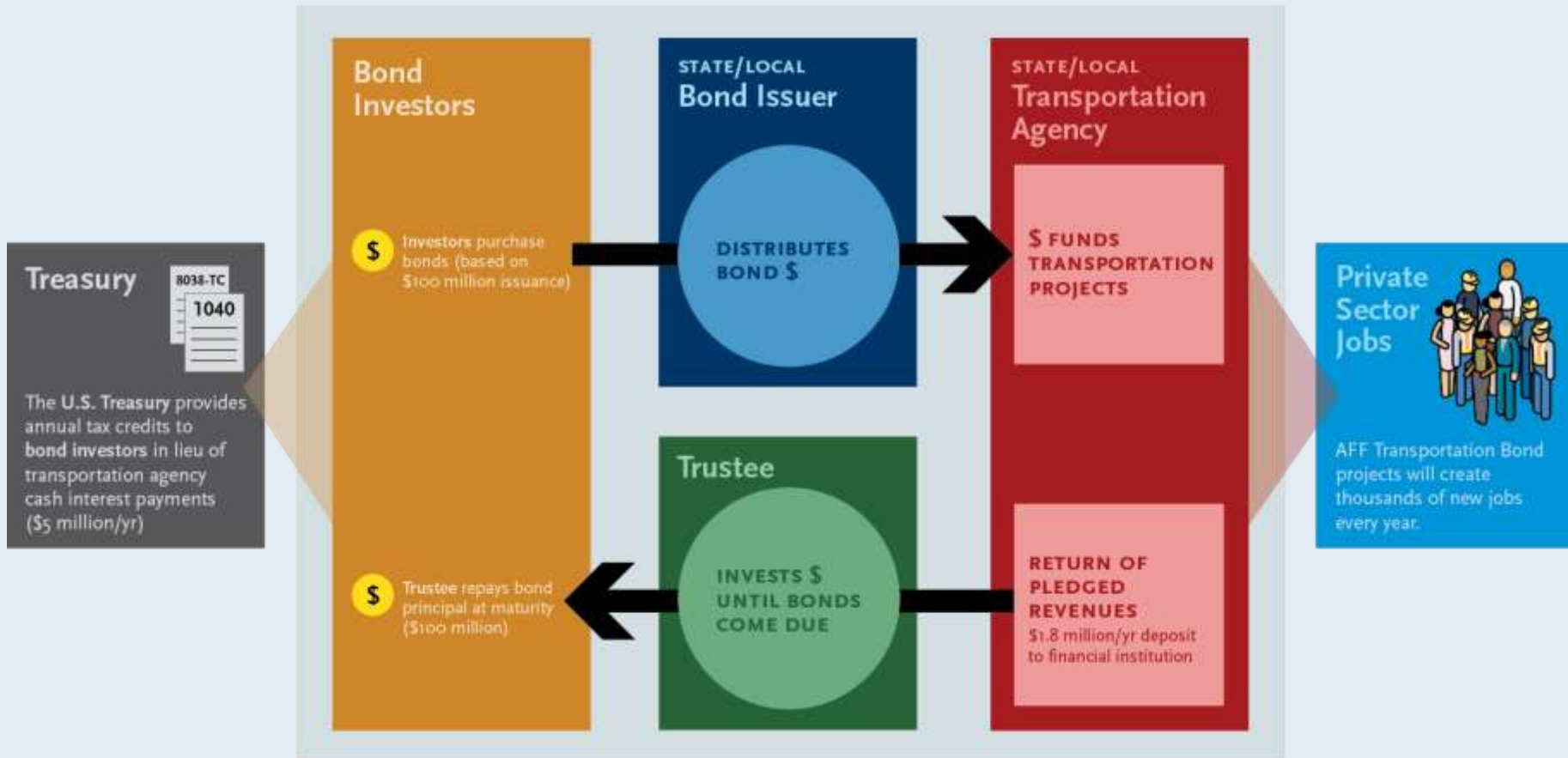
A sales tax at the wholesale level would be seen as even less of a user fee than current fuel taxes



The overall price of gas is the user cost message. Closing a \$20 B annual shortfall in the Highway Trust Fund preserves roads and funds transit improvements.



# Build Infrastructure and Create Jobs

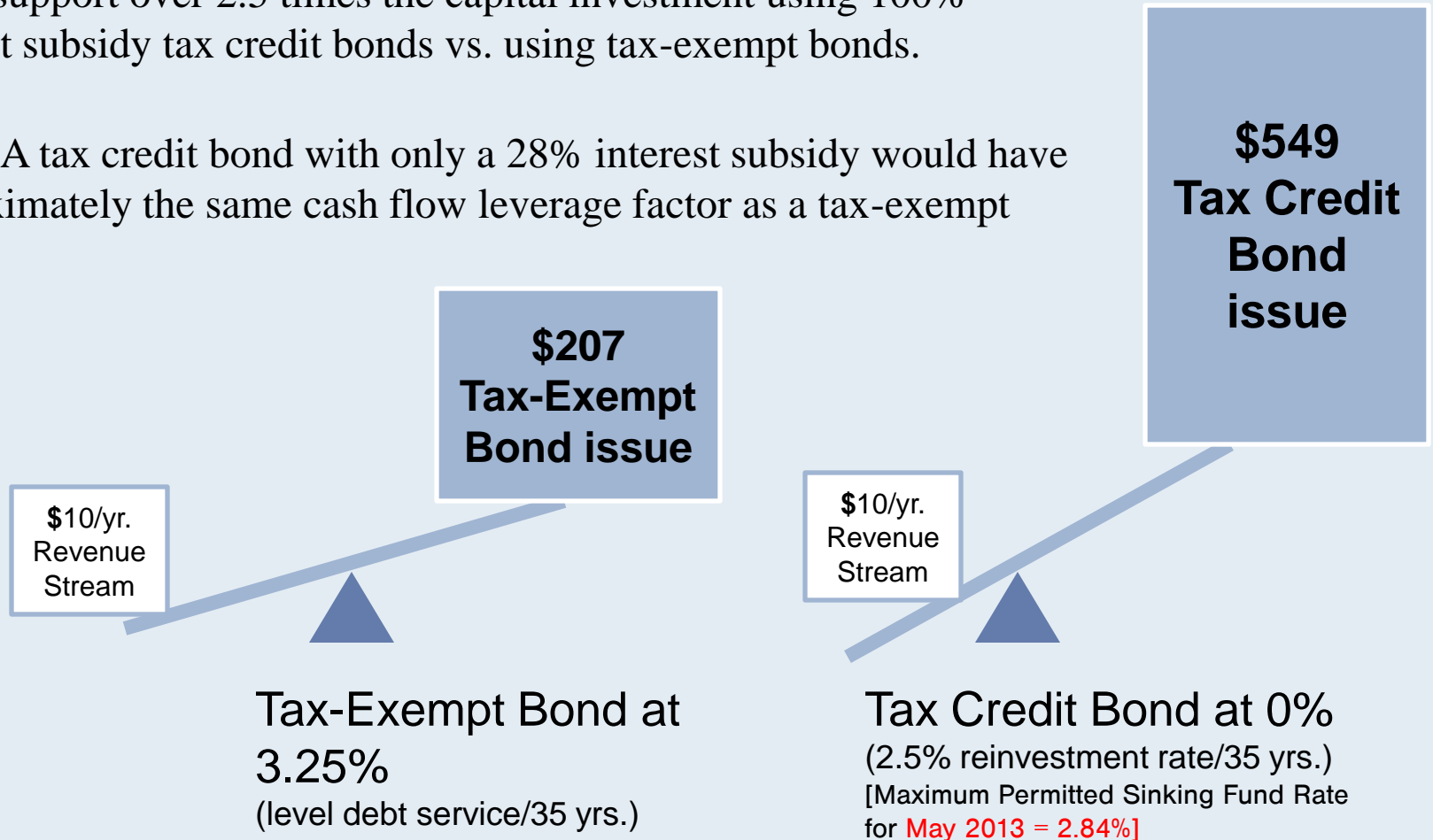




# Leveraging Available Cash Flow through Tax Credit Bonds vs. Tax-Exempt Bonds

Over 35 years, a \$10/year revenue stream set aside for debt service could support over 2.5 times the capital investment using 100% interest subsidy tax credit bonds vs. using tax-exempt bonds.

Note: A tax credit bond with only a 28% interest subsidy would have approximately the same cash flow leverage factor as a tax-exempt bond.







# Status of Qualified Tax Credit Bond Programs (2009-2012) *(dollars in millions)*

Program	Volume Authorized	Amount Issued	Average Issue Size	Comment
Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZABs)	\$ 4,000*	\$ 1,292	\$9.5 (136 issues)	Unissued volume expires one year after year of authorized issuance. Latest Authorization: American Taxpayer Relief Act ("Fiscal Cliff" Bill) (Jan., 2013)
Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCBs)	\$ 22,000	\$ 15,582	\$44.3 (352 issues)	Volume remains available for issuance. Latest Authorization: ARRA (Feb., 2009)
Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs)	\$ 3,600	\$ 415**	\$18.0 (23 issues)	Issuance data available through 2011 only. Latest Authorization: ARRA (Feb., 2009)
Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds (QECBs)	\$ 3,200	\$ 458**	\$6.9 (66 issues)	Issuance data available through 2011 only. Latest Authorization: ARRA (Feb., 2009)
Qualified Forestry Conservation Bonds (QFCBs)	\$ 500	?	n.a.	No data available. Latest Authorization: Farm Bill (May, 2008)
<b>TOTAL VOLUME:</b>	<b>\$ 33,000*</b>	<b>\$17,747</b>		

\* Volume authorized does not include \$4.4 billion of QZABs authorized pre-2009.

\*\* Amount issued for CREBs and QECBs only through 2011, not 2012.

Sources: Congressional Research Service; Securities Data Corporation



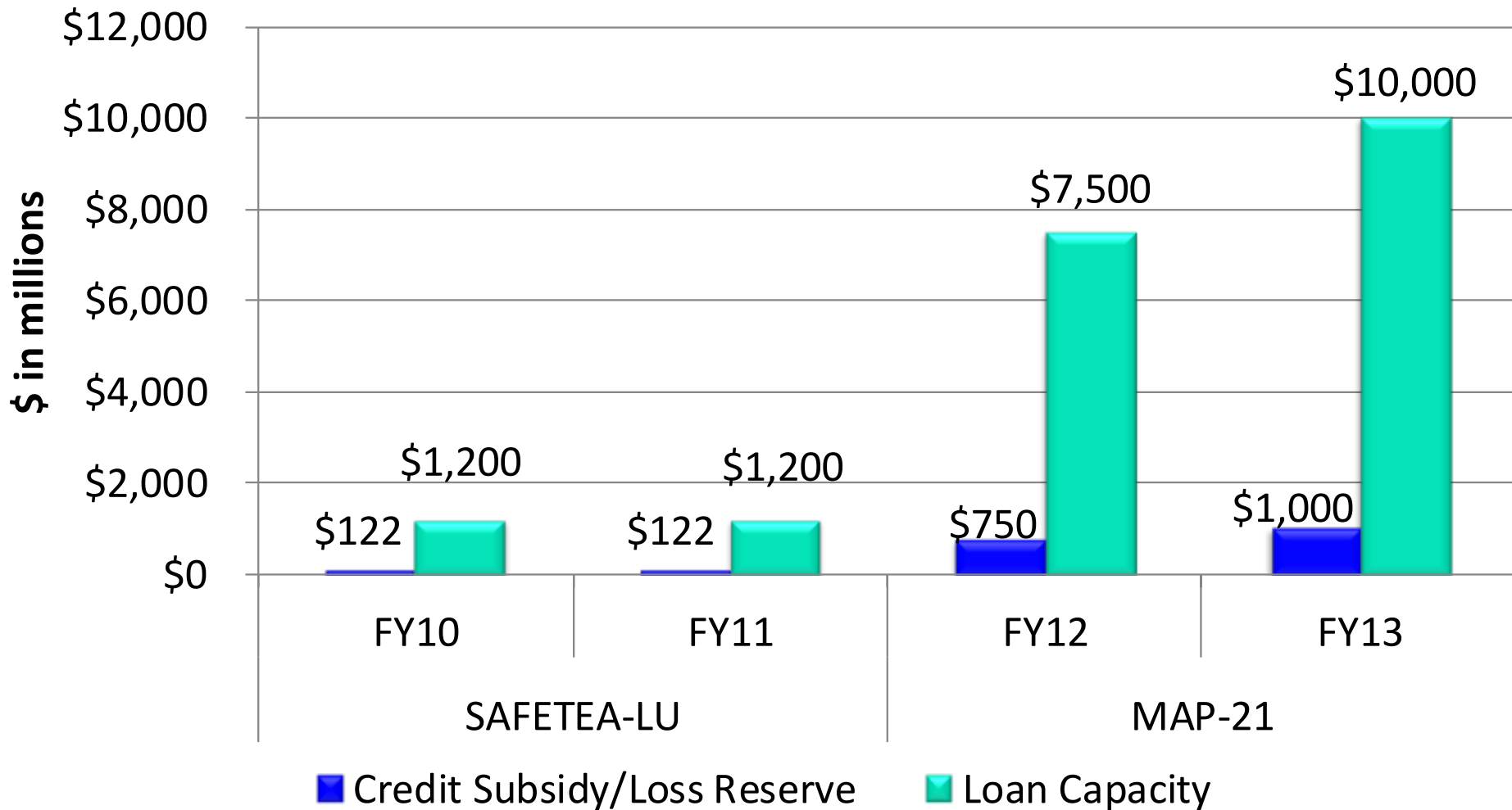
# America Fast Forward Specific Federal Financing Tools

- Add a 6<sup>th</sup> class of QTCBs to the Tax Code: America Fast Forward Transportation Bonds
- \$45 billion 10-year National Volume Cap (\$4.5 billion per year)
  - 65% Discretionary for Major Projects / Programs:
    - Capital costs of \$500 million and up with identified revenue sources
    - Not more than 50% of project costs funded with federal grants
  - 35% by Formula to States for projects with:
    - Volume Cap to states based on state's percent of national population
    - Individual projects selected by states
- Maximum bond maturity of 35 years, allowing up to 80% effective overall federal subsidy  
(similar to grant programs) – justified by large spillover benefits and long-lived nature of transportation investment
- The estimated federal budget score cost of ~\$10 billion in tax expenditures (20-25 percent of the face value of bonds) over the 10-year budget window
- Federal requirements apply (Davis-Bacon, NEPA, etc.)





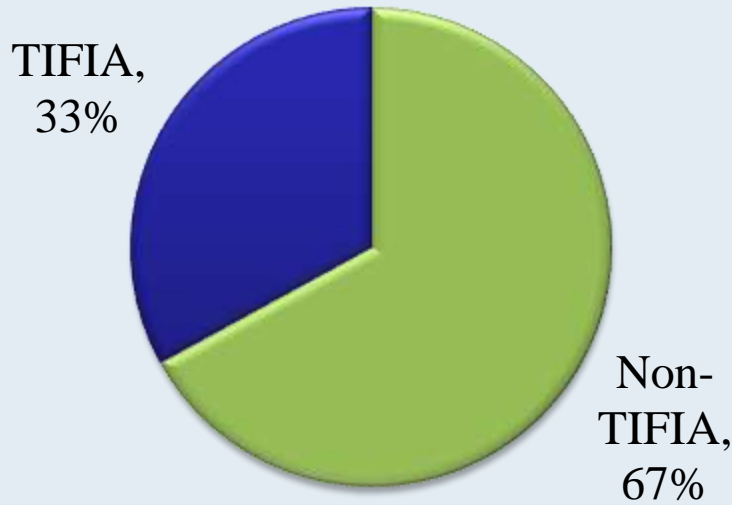
# TIFIA Funding Increased under MAP-21



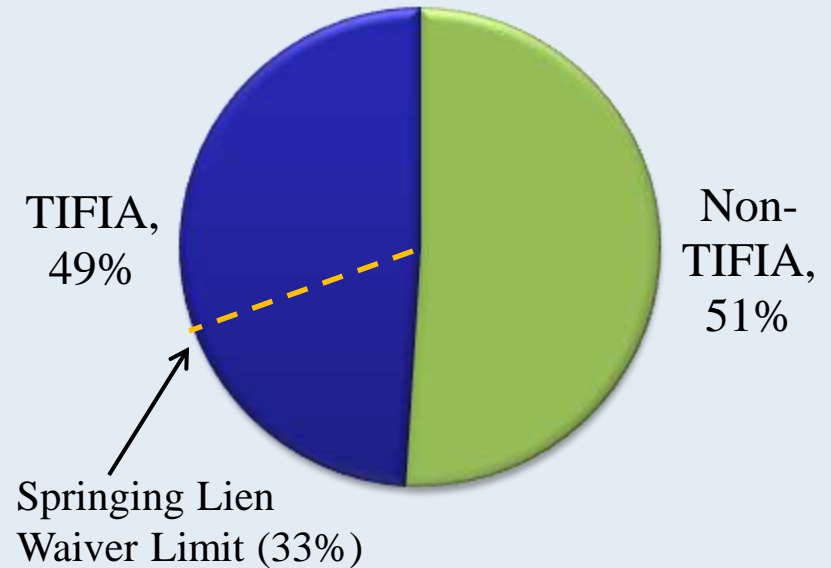


# TIFIA Participation Increased under MAP-21

### Under SAFTEA-LU

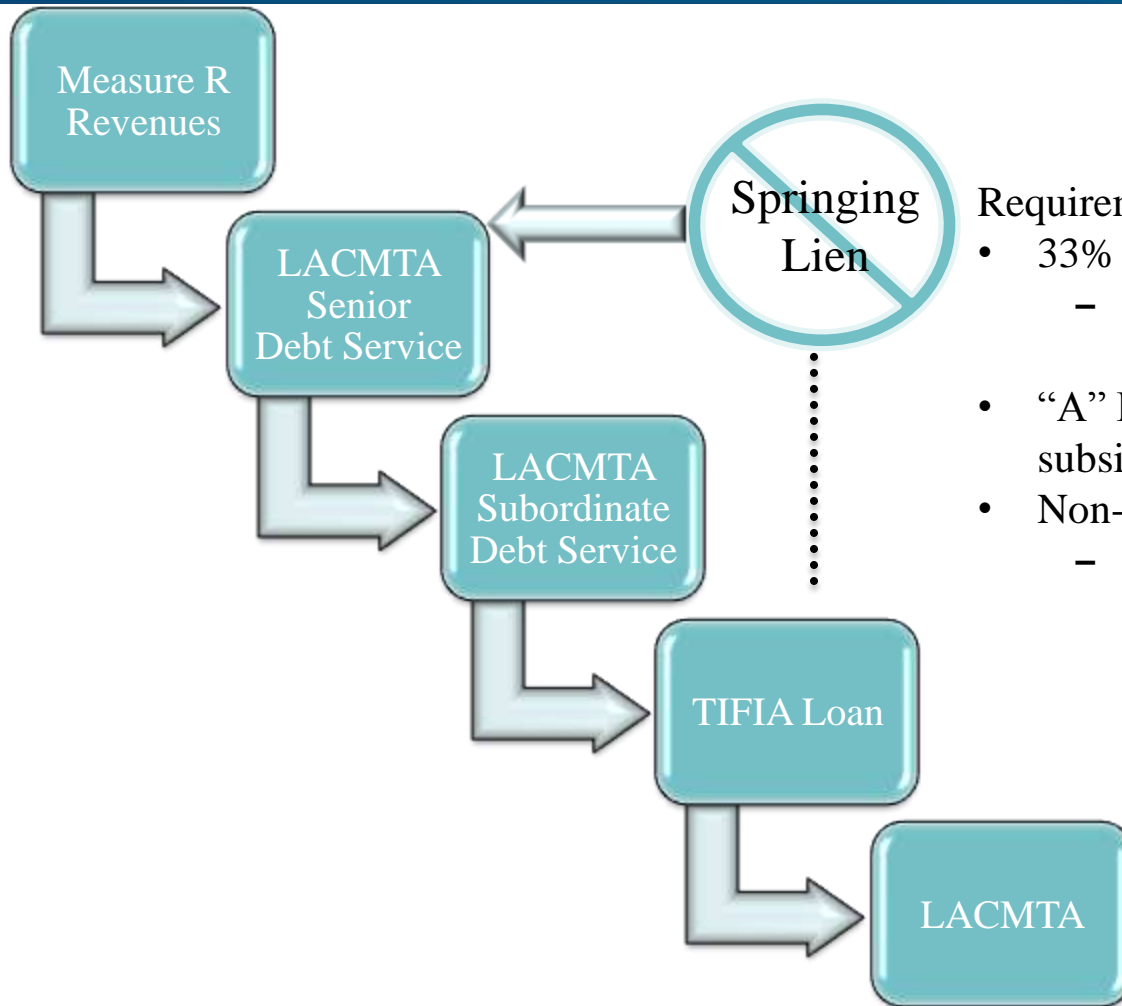


### Under MAP-21





# TIFIA Allows Full Subordination of Loan



**Requirements:**

- 33% participation
  - At Master Credit Agreement or Project level?
- “A” Rated, maximum 10% credit subsidy
- Non-project related revenue only
  - No tolls

• Revenues remaining after payment of debt obligations are released to LACMTA.