



# MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

## Legislative Fiscal Division

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Director  
AMY CARLSON

DATE: March 22, 2022

TO: Transportation Interim Committee

FROM: Katy Callon, Fiscal Analyst

RE: Electric Vehicles and Montana Highways – Updates to November 2021 Report

This memo provides updates to information included in the “Electric Vehicles and Montana Highways” report<sup>1</sup> that was presented to the Financial Modernization and Risk Analysis (MARA) study committee at their November 2021 meeting:

- The November 2021 report identified 1,139 battery electric vehicles and 711 plug-in hybrid electric vehicles registered in Montana; those figures were reported from AtlasHubEV, which utilized a snapshot of registration data from January 21, 2021. Currently, based on snapshot data from January of 2022, that source shows 1,893 battery electric vehicles and 1,002 plug-in hybrid electric vehicles registered. That represents a 66.2% annual growth for battery electric vehicles and, for plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, a 40.9% growth
- The Alternative Fuels Data Center reports that, as of March 11, 2022, there were 77 electric vehicle charging stations, compared to 68 stations that were included in the November report. That may be due either to new stations being installed or to stations being captured in the data that were not previously included. Four of the additional stations were at Town Pump facilities. Four were at the University of Montana, and one was at an auto dealership
- In terms of the federal incentives, page 9 of the November 2021 report provided some details about the Build Back Better Act, a reconciliation package that was under consideration by Congress at the time. That package did not pass the Senate, but it is still possible that a revised reconciliation package may be considered by Congress
- Page 13 of the report also referenced the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) commitment to 10.0% of its new fleet being electric over the next ten years and the potential for a higher percentage of electric vehicles, if the funding provided in the reconciliation package was available. As the reconciliation package did not pass, the USPS has decided to move forward with the 90.0% internal combustion engine vehicle and 10.0% battery-electric vehicle option for their fleet replacement. Their initial order for replacement vehicles

<sup>1</sup> [https://leg.mt.gov/content/Committees/Interim/2021-2022/Transportation/22\\_March/EVs-Road-Funding-MARA-final.pdf](https://leg.mt.gov/content/Committees/Interim/2021-2022/Transportation/22_March/EVs-Road-Funding-MARA-final.pdf)

includes 5,000 electric-powered vehicles,<sup>2</sup> and the estimated total number of vehicles to be replaced is between 165,000 to 190,000

- Page 11 of the report provides a chart of regular gasoline prices (dollars per gallon) for November 2020 through October of 2021 from the Energy Information Administration. The following chart, also from the Energy Information Administration, shows current gas prices through March 14, 2022

### Regular Gasoline Prices

(dollars per gallon)

6

5

4

3

2

May '21

Jul '21

Sep '21

Nov '21

Jan '22

Mar '22

— U.S. — East Coast — New England — Central Atlantic — Lower Atlantic — Midwest  
— Gulf Coast — Rocky Mountain — West Coast — California



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Montana is included in the Rocky Mountain region, which is the light green color in the chart. Regular gas prices for that region, from March 15, 2021, were at \$2.84 per gallon; as of March 14, 2022, the dollar per gallon cost of regular gasoline is \$4.14 for the region, representing an increase of \$1.30 per gallon.

<sup>2</sup>

<https://about.usps.com/newsroom/national-releases/2022/0206-usps-responsible-electric-powered-vehicles-for-america-largest-federal-fleet.htm>