

Here are 10 Good Reasons Why Suspending the Gas Tax Is a Bad Idea!

1. The gas tax has *nothing* to do with the increase in gasoline prices during 2004.
2. The State of Florida cannot guarantee that gas prices would drop commensurately at the pump with a tax suspension. This could be *an invitation for more highway robbery!*
3. If the savings were passed on to motorists, what happens in September when the suspension is lifted? Floridians would experience, in one day, *the largest spike in the price of gasoline – 10 cents per gallon – in our history!* Think of the outrage that would cause!
4. Suspending a portion of the gas tax places *hundreds of millions* of dollars in future funding commitments for state highway projects at risk. *Uncertainty* about the state government's financial commitment will disrupt state programs, *jeopardizing several thousand Florida jobs.*
5. Assuming 10 “fill ups” of 20 gallons each during July and August, the tax suspension would save the average driver \$10.00 per month while costing all Floridians \$170.6 million in desperately needed transportation revenue.
6. Supply and demand are the basic determinants of the price of gasoline. Reducing the gas tax is counterproductive because reducing a portion of the price without increasing the availability of crude oil makes it easier for OPEC to keep prices high.
7. *Delaying highway safety improvements jeopardizes lives.* Traffic accidents are the leading cause of death of young Americans six to 28 years of age.
8. Delaying highway improvements leads to *more traffic congestion and poorer air quality.*
9. Using the gas tax as a political expediency is *bad public policy and sets a dangerous precedent.*
10. Tourists will continue to visit Florida. It is doubtful anyone checks the price of gas in Florida before deciding on a trip to Disney or Universal.

