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AAA Applauds Launch of Wisconsin DOT's Midwest Driver Fee Calculator

MADISON, Wisc. (December 21, 2020) – For over 70 years, AAA has helped motorists calculate the average cost of vehicle operation and ownership in an annual publication called [Your Driving Costs](#). Nationally, taxes and fees make up about 12 percent of the annual ownership cost, but this can vary significantly based on state, county and even local fuel taxes and registration fees. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation's recently launched [Midwest Driver Fee Calculator](#) does an excellent job of breaking down those costs for Wisconsin motorists and comparing them to what others pay in neighboring states.

Another significant cost variable for motorists is vehicle maintenance and repairs, which accounts for over 40 percent of operating costs, on average. These costs can be greatly impacted by pavement conditions and road surface integrity. A single pothole strike, costing an average of \$300 to repair, can effectively create a hidden tax that doubles the annual burden of a Wisconsin motorist. Rough roads can also negatively impact fuel economy and decrease the lifespan of a vehicle's suspension system and tires.

"AAA supports funding the necessary maintenance of roads through user fees that are constitutionally dedicated, as they are in Wisconsin," said Nick Jarmusz, director of public affairs for AAA – The Auto Club Group. "It is more economical for motorists to pay for road maintenance than additional vehicle maintenance."

The Auto Club Group (ACG) is the second largest AAA club in North America. ACG and its affiliates provide membership, insurance, financial services and travel offerings to over 9.9 million members across eleven states and two U.S. territories including Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; most of Illinois and Minnesota; and a portion of Indiana. ACG belongs to the national AAA federation with more than 60 million members in the United States and Canada and whose mission includes protecting and advancing freedom of mobility and improving traffic safety. Motorists can map a route, identify gas prices, find discounts, book a hotel, and access AAA roadside assistance with the AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad and Android. Learn more at AAA.com/mobile. AAA clubs can be visited on the Internet at AAA.com.