HIGHWAY PATROL FINES

Revenue Description

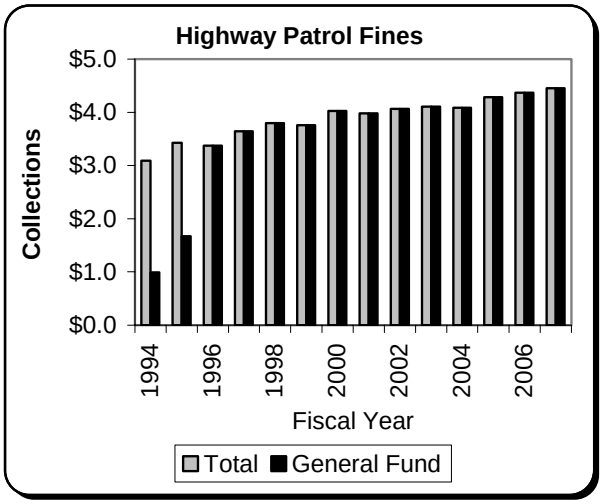
Highway patrol fines are provided for primarily in Title 61, Chapter 8, parts 3 and 7, MCA. Disposition of these fines is provided for in 3-10-601, 53-9-109, and 61-12-701, MCA. Generally, citations given out by highway patrolmen are collected in justice court, and are distributed 50% to the county general fund and 50% to the state general fund. This is provided for in 3-10-601, MCA.

Historical and Projected Revenues

Table 1 shows total collections and general fund revenue from highway patrol fines for FY 1994 through FY 2004 and forecast revenue for FY 2005 through FY 2007.

Table 1
Highway Patrol Fines
($ millions)

	Fiscal Year	Total	General Fund	Percent Change
A	1994	$3.091	$0.988	
A	1995	$3.426	$1.673	69.27%
A	1996	$3.374	$3.374	101.65%
A	1997	$3.644	$3.644	8.00%
A	1998	$3.801	$3.801	4.31%
A	1999	$3.759	$3.759	-1.11%
A	2000	$4.028	$4.028	7.16%
A	2001	$3.981	$3.981	-1.16%
A	2002	$4.062	$4.062	2.04%
A	2003	$4.111	$4.111	1.21%
A	2004	$4.084	$4.084	-0.64%
F	**2005**	**$4.287**	**$4.287**	**4.95%**
F	**2006**	**$4.370**	**$4.370**	**1.94%**
F	**2007**	**$4.453**	**$4.453**	**1.90%**



The increase in general fund revenue in FY 1995 is due to a change in allocation. Before FY 1995, a portion of the state's share of highway patrol fines was allocated to a state special revenue fund. Since FY 1995, all highway patrol fines received by the state are deposited in the general fund.

Total collections have shown a general upward trend, with growth averaging a little less than $0.1 million per year. Collections grew faster in FY 2000, the first full fiscal year when numeric speed limits were in effect. Other legislation does not appear to

have significantly affected collections. In particular, bills passed by the 2003 legislature raised maximum fines for several types of traffic offenses, lowered the blood alcohol level for driving under the influence, and made other changes. These changes did not result in revenue growth in FY 2004.

Forecast Methodology and Projection Calculation

The time trend of collections growth was estimated statistically using collections for FY 1996 through FY 2004. It was found that, on average, collections can be expected to grow by $0.083 million per year. Collections are estimated by applying this annual growth beginning with the midpoint of the period used to estimate the trend, FY 2000, and the average of annual collections during the period, $3.871 million. Table 2 shows the calculation of forecast collections for FY 2005 through FY 2007.

Table 2
Calculation of Forecast Collections
FY 2004 through FY 2007
($ millions)

Fiscal Year	Years Since FY 2000		Annual Growth		Average Collections FY1996 - FY 2004		Forecast Collections
F 2005	**5**	**x**	**0.083**	**+**	**$3.871**	**=**	**$4.287**
F 2006	**6**	**x**	**0.083**	**+**	**$3.871**	**=**	**$4.370**
F 2007	**7**	**x**	**0.083**	**+**	**$3.871**	**=**	**$4.453**