

Report: Hike gas tax, more toll roads

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Research out of Trent University is calling on Queen's Park to hike the gas tax and create more toll roads to fund infrastructure spending.

A report suggests hiking the gas tax from 14.7 cents to 23 cents a litre — with a similar rise in the tax on diesel fuel — to generate more money for infrastructure spending.

"It's essentially like a user fee," Harry Kitchen, professor emeritus, Canadian taxation and public policy, Trent University, told CHML's Bill Kelly Show, Wednesday. "You use the service. You pay for the service. And if you put the funds into a specific fund, that money should be put back into that service you are using."

Consulting Engineers of Ontario CEO Barry Steinberg says it's easier for drivers to accept tolls if they know where the money is going.

"We have to dedicate those revenue streams by putting them in dedicated reserves and not in general revenue, where they can be spent on other things," Steinberg told CHML's Scott Thompson Show, Tuesday afternoon.

The report was commissioned by the **Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario**.