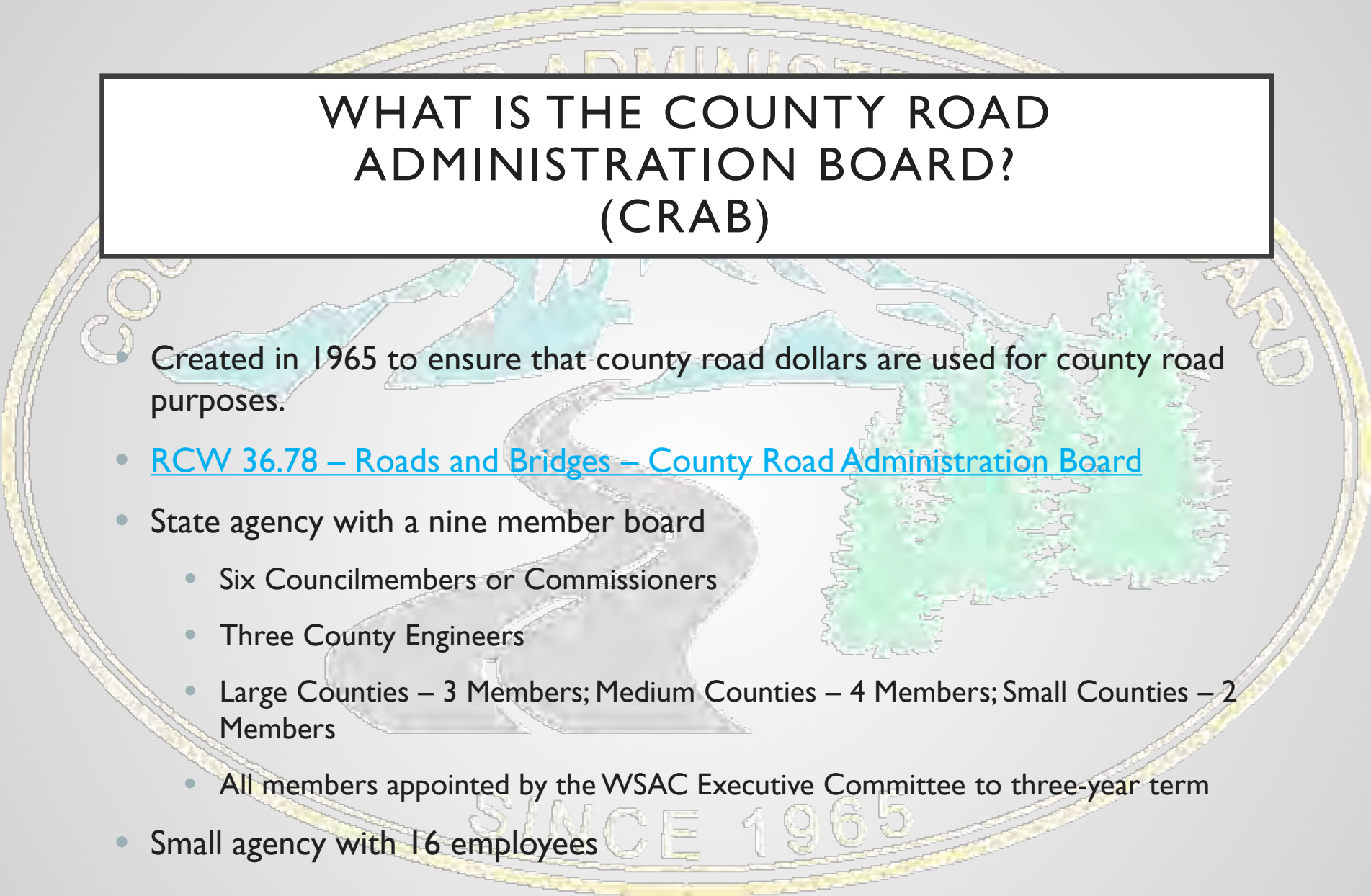


The background features a large, semi-circular seal for the Washington State County Road Administration Board. The seal has a gold border and contains a landscape with a mountain range in shades of blue and green, a winding road, and a body of water. The text "COUNTY ROAD ADMINISTRATION BOARD" is arched across the top, and "SINCE 1965" is at the bottom.

# WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION PRESENTATION

County Road Administration Board



## WHAT IS THE COUNTY ROAD ADMINISTRATION BOARD? (CRAB)

- Created in 1965 to ensure that county road dollars are used for county road purposes.
- [RCW 36.78 – Roads and Bridges – County Road Administration Board](#)
- State agency with a nine member board
  - Six Councilmembers or Commissioners
  - Three County Engineers
  - Large Counties – 3 Members; Medium Counties – 4 Members; Small Counties – 2 Members
  - All members appointed by the WSAC Executive Committee to three-year term
- Small agency with 16 employees



## WHO IS CRAB?

- Provide statutory oversight of the State's 39 county road departments through the standards of good practice (WAC 136)
  - Insures counties are in compliance with state and federal laws and regulations in order to receive State fuel tax funds
- Provide Information Technology services to counties for asset management and pavement rating
- Provide engineering and professional management assistance and training
- Training for county commissioners and councilmembers, county engineers, and their staffs.
- Design system and unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) assistance and training
- Manage three grant programs and one revolving loan program



# GRANT AND REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAMS

- **County Arterial Preservation Account (Preservation)**
  - Competitive allocation grant for preventative maintenance type preservation of county arterials and collectors
- **Rural Arterial Trust Account (Preservation)**
  - Competitive grant program (By region) for structural preservation and reconstruction of county arterials and collectors.
- **County Ferry Capital Improvement Program (Capital)**
  - Limited to counties with a county vehicle ferry – Whatcom, Skagit, Pierce, and Wahkiakum
- **Emergency Loan Program (Revolving Loan)**
  - Assist with costs of natural and manmade disasters
  - Only counties under 800,000 in population are eligible

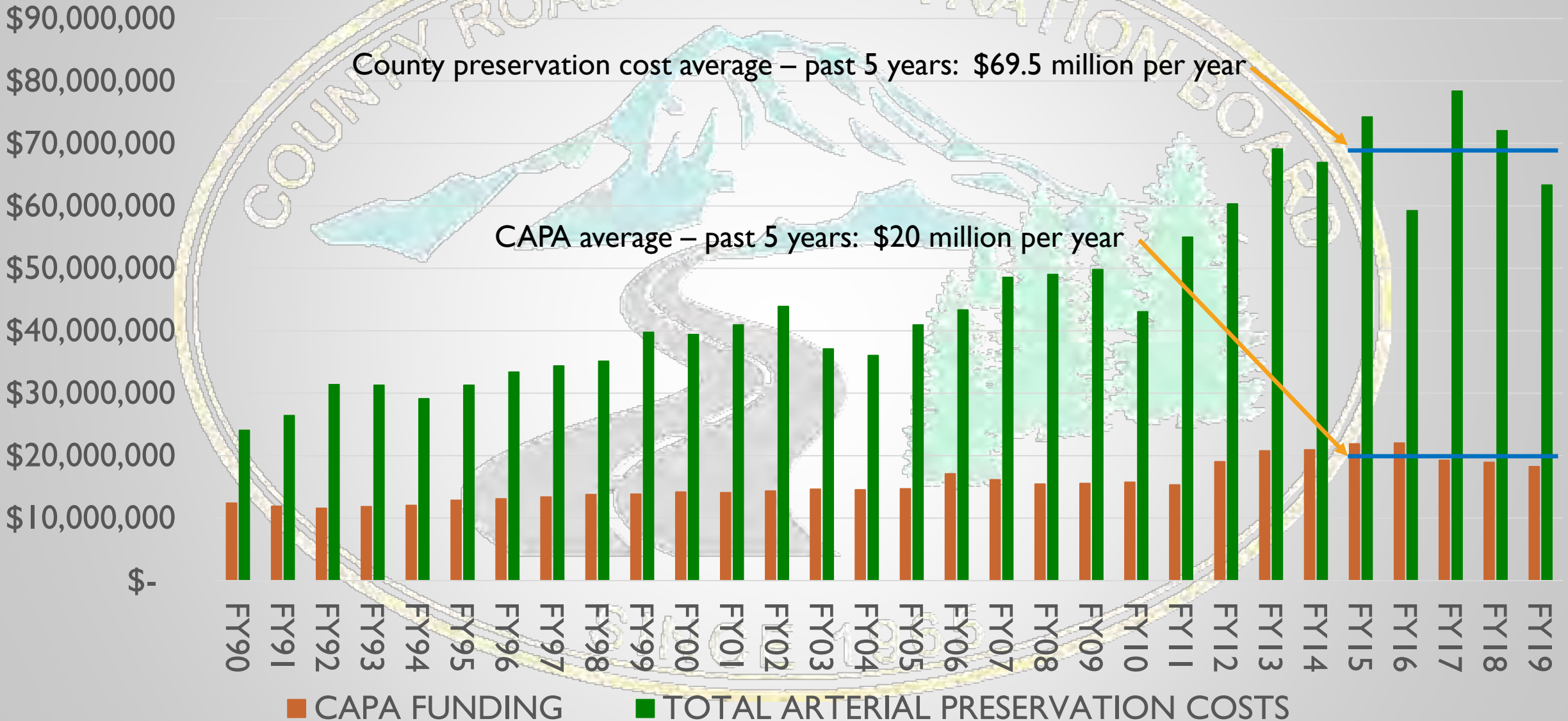


# COUNTY ARTERIAL PRESERVATION ACCOUNT

Created in 1990 as 1.9565% (0.45 cents) of the 23-cent per gallon fuel tax (RCW 82.38.030, RCW 46.68.090)

- Purpose is to support improvements to sustain structural, safety, and operational integrity of county arterial roads (RCW 46.68.090)
- Counties are required to use a Pavement Management System, prepare an annual County Arterial Preservation Program, and also report to CRAB the actual preservation maintenance work completed annually.
- Funds are disbursed directly to counties based on their proportion of paved county arterial roads.
- CRAB's administration rate for this program average 3.7% over last three biennium (OFM)

# COUNTY ARTERIAL PRESERVATION ACCOUNT FUNDING vs TOTAL COUNTY PRESERVATION COSTS

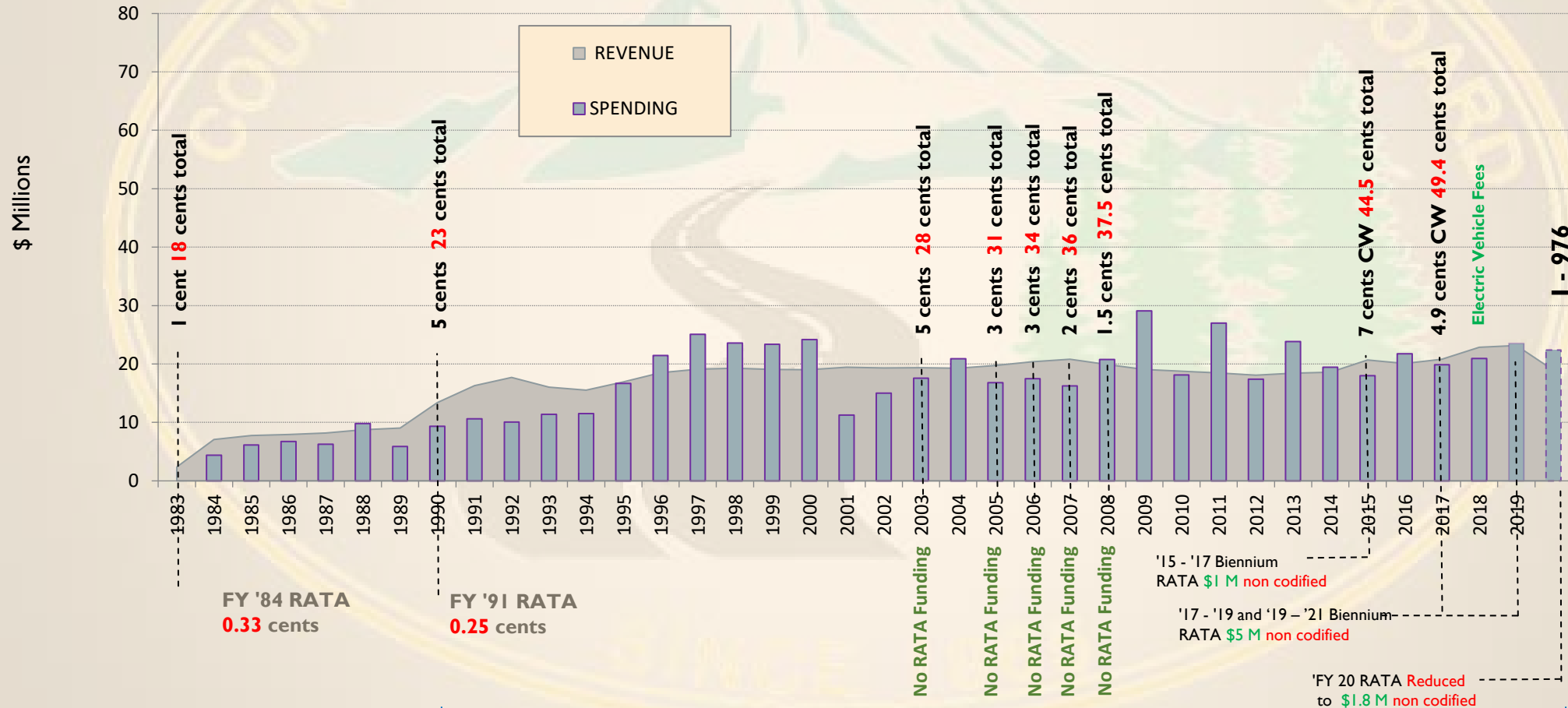


# RURAL ARTERIAL TRUST ACCOUNT

- Created in 1983 with 0.33 cents per gallon fuel tax
- Increased by 0.25 cents in 1991 to a total of **2.5363% (0.58 cents)** of the 23-cent per gallon fuel tax (RCW 36.79.020, RCW 46.68.090) – **No increase since 1991**
- Purpose is for construction and improvement of county rural arterials and collectors, including federally funded bridges on access roads (RCW 36.79.020)
- Competitive grant program that must address a road's:
  - Structural ability to carry loads (Economic vitality)
  - Capacity to move traffic at reasonable speeds (Capacity & economic vitality)
  - Adequacy of alignment and related geometrics (Safety)
  - Accident experience (Safety)
  - Fatal accident experience (Safety)
- Projects rated and ranked by region to address the different priorities of the 5 regions of the State.
- CRAB's administration rate for this program averages 2.57% over last three biennium (OFM)

# Fuel Tax Revenue and the RATA

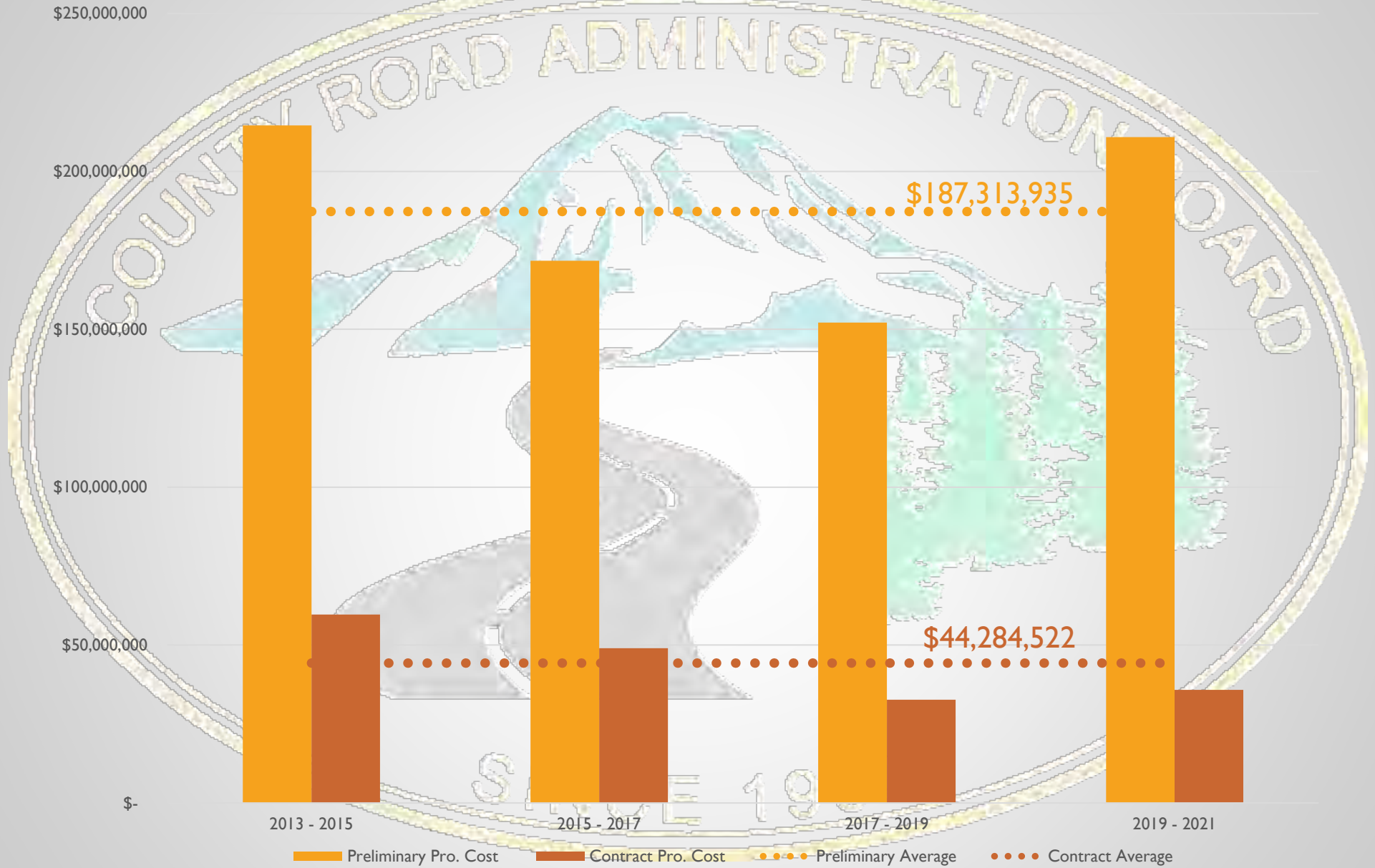
Revenue and Project Spending listed by Calendar Year



No additional codified RATA funding (except for \$600K Electric Vehicle Fees), in 30 years



# Rural Arterial Trust Account Demand





## COUNTY FERRY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CFCIP)

- Call for projects every 4 years to counties with a county vehicle ferry
  - Wahkiakum, Pierce, Skagit, and Whatcom counties eligible
- CRAB staff review and CRABoard recommends funding to the Legislature
- Subject to biennial appropriation from the Legislature
- Typically used by Counties to help with debt service on capital improvements of ferry system
- Closed projects: Wahkiakum & Pierce
- Current projects: Pierce - \$352,900 annually (FY 2026)      Skagit - \$375,000 annually (FY 2039)



## EMERGENCY LOAN PROGRAM (ELP)

- Created by Legislature during 2019 session - \$1M in funding
- To assist small counties with cost of natural and manmade disasters
- CRAB has provided loans to two counties:
  - Columbia County - \$812,196 for February 2020 flooding
    - Total damage estimate of \$7.2M - \$1.3M Local funds
  - Franklin County - \$200,000 for September 2020 fire damage
    - Total damage estimate of \$1.45M – All local funds
- ELP has exhausted available funds
- 2021 – 2023 Budget request for additional one-time funding of \$10M
  - Governor's Budget recommends \$5M



## POTENTIAL NEW GRANT PROGRAMS

- Fish Barrier Removal Program
- Sidewalk and Illumination for Rural Areas
- Small Structure (Existing under 20ft in length) replacement
- ADA Improvements in Rural Areas



# SUMMARY

## • Rural Arterial Trust Account

- Last codified funding increase in 1990
- Documented need for up to \$140M per biennium in additional funding

## • County Arterial Preservation Account

- Last codified increase in 2006 (Transportation Partnership Account)
- Documented need for up to \$100M per biennium in additional funding

## • County Ferry Capital Improvement Program

- Continue appropriation to Pierce and Skagit counties

## • Emergency Loan Program

- Funds are exhausted. Requesting a \$10M transfer to prepare for future disasters

## • New grant programs to assist counties correct deficiencies beyond the current RATA and CAPA programs