

ATTESTATION ENGAGEMENT

Bucks County
Pennsylvania
09-000

Liquid Fuels, Act 44, and Act 89
Tax Funds, and County Fee
For Local Use Fund
For the Period
January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020

January 2023



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of the Auditor General

Timothy L. DeFoor • Auditor General



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TIMOTHY L. DEFOOR
AUDITOR GENERAL

Independent Auditor's Report

The Honorable Yassmin Gramian, P.E.
Secretary
Department of Transportation
Harrisburg, PA 17120

We examined the accompanying Forms MS-991 With Adjustments for the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund, the Reports of Act 44 and Act 89 Tax Funds With Adjustments, and the Report of County Fee For Local Use Funds With Adjustments of Bucks County for the period January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020 (Forms). The county's management is responsible for presenting the Forms in accordance with the criteria described in the Background section of this report and the Department of Transportation's *Publication 9*. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Forms based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Forms are presented in accordance with the criteria described above, in all material respects. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the Forms. The nature, timing and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgement, including an assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the Forms whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We are required to be independent and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the engagement.

As described in the Auditor Description Of Select Transactions section of this report, the adjustments included on the Forms are made by the Department of the Auditor General.

Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

In our opinion, the Forms present, in all material respects, the information required by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund, the Act 44 Tax Fund, the Act 89 Tax Fund, and the County Fee For Local Use Fund of Bucks County for the period January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020, in accordance with the criteria described in the Background section of this report and the Department of Transportation's *Publication 9*.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we are required to report all deficiencies that are considered to be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control; fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws or regulations that have a material effect on the Forms; and any other instances that warrant the attention of those charged with governance; noncompliance with provisions of contracts or grant agreements, and abuse that has a material effect on the Forms. We are also required to obtain and report the views of responsible officials concerning the findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as any planned corrective actions. We performed our examination to express an opinion on whether the Forms are presented in accordance with the criteria described above and not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on internal control over reporting on the Forms or on compliance and other matters; accordingly, we express no such opinions.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. *A material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Forms will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over reporting on the Forms was for the limited purpose of expressing an opinion on whether the Forms are presented in accordance with the criteria described above and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our engagement we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

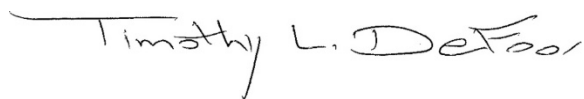
As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Forms are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of Bucks County's compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of amounts on the Forms. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our engagement, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*. However, we did note matters that, while not required to be included in this report by *Government Auditing Standards*, have been included in the finding below:

- Liquid Fuels Money Over Expended On Project - Recurring.
- Untimely Deposit Of Allocations And Act 89 Allocation Deposited Into The General Fund.

The examination finding for liquid fuels money being over expended on a project contained in this report cites a condition that existed in the operation of the municipality during the previous engagement period and was not corrected during the current examination period. The municipality should strive to comply with the recommendations in this report.

The purpose of this report is to determine whether the county's Liquid Fuels Tax Fund, Act 44 Tax Fund, Act 89 Tax Fund, and County Fee For Local Use Fund money is spent in accordance with the laws and regulations identified in the Background section of this report and the Department of Transportation's *Publication 9*. This report is not suitable for any other purpose.

We appreciate the courtesy extended by Bucks County to us during the course of our examination. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Bureau of County Audits at 717-787-1363.



Timothy L. DeFoor
Auditor General
December 12, 2022

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BUCKS COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS,
AND COUNTY FEE FOR LOCAL USE FUND
BACKGROUND
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

Background

The Vehicle Code makes provisions and provides funding for the County Liquid Fuels, Act 44, Act 89, and County Fee For Local Use Programs. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has regulatory administration and oversight of the funds supporting these county programs. Counties are required to comply with those provisions and to report annually.

The Vehicle Code imposes a state tax on liquid fuels and fuels used or sold and delivered by distributors within the Commonwealth (75 Pa. C.S. § 9004(a)). One-half cent of the tax collected on each gallon of liquid fuels is deposited in the Commonwealth's Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. *The Vehicle Code* further provides for the disposition and use of this tax, including the allocations to counties in June and December of each year to fund construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repair of county roads, streets and bridges. The allocation to the respective counties is made in the ratio that the average amount returned to each county during the three preceding years bears to the average amount returned to all counties during the three preceding years (75 Pa C.S. § 9010).

The Vehicle Code, as amended by Act 44 of 2007 (July 18, 2007, P.L.169) and Act 89 of 2013 (November 25, 2013, P.L. 169), provides the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation with oversight authority of the Act 44 funds distributed to the counties from the Commonwealth's Motor License Fund (75 Pa. C.S. § 8915.6(b)(2) and as of July 1, 2014 § 9301(b)). The annual distribution to counties is determined based upon the ratio of square footage of deck area of a county's county-owned bridges to the total square footage of deck area of county-owned bridges throughout the Commonwealth. The reporting of the square footage of deck area of a county's county-owned bridges is required as part of the National Bridge Inspection Standards Program.

The Vehicle Code, as amended by Act 89 of 2013 (November 25, 2013, P.L. 974, No.89) provides for semi-annual allocations to all counties that own public bridges (75 Pa. C.S. § 9502(a)(2)(iv)). These allocations are made on the first business day of June and December each year. The Commonwealth allocates the funds available through Act 89 to counties based upon the ratio of square footage of deck area of a county's county-owned bridges to the total square footage of deck area of county-owned bridges throughout the Commonwealth. The reporting of the square footage of deck area of a county's county-owned bridges is required as part of the National Bridge Inspection Standards Program.

The Vehicle Code, as amended by Act 89 of 2013 (November 25, 2013, P.L. 974, No.89), permits counties to impose a \$5 fee for local use on nonexempt vehicles registered to an address located in the county (75 Pa. C.S. § 1935 (b)). This fee is collected by the Department of Transportation and is distributed to counties that impose the fee on the first business day of June and December each year.

BUCKS COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS,
AND COUNTY FEE FOR LOCAL USE FUND
BACKGROUND
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

Background (Continued)

Criteria

A. *The Vehicle Code* prescribes criteria for liquid fuels program funds (75 Pa C.S. § 9010). The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's *Publication 9* provides more specific policies and procedures to counties for the administration and reporting of the liquid fuels program funds. In the event of any discrepancies between the two, the legislation governs.

(1) Funds received by the counties must be deposited in a special fund designated as the County Liquid Fuels Tax Fund and no other money may be deposited and commingled. Money should be invested to earn interest until expended.

- For purposes of payments under (2), below, the county may borrow and place in the special fund money not in excess of the liquid fuels tax funds to be received during the current calendar year.

(2) Payments from the special fund may be used for:

- Construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repair of roads, highways, bridges and curb ramps from a road or highway to provide for access by individuals with disabilities consistent with Federal and State law;
- Property damages and compensation of viewers for services in eminent domain proceedings involving roads, highways, and bridges;
- Construction, reconstruction, operation and maintenance of publicly owned ferryboat operations;
- Interest and principal payments on road, bridge, or publicly owned ferryboat operation bonds or sinking fund charges;
- Acquisition, maintenance, repair and operation of traffic signs and signals;
- Erection and maintenance of stop and go signal lights, blinkers and other like traffic control devices;

BUCKS COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS,
AND COUNTY FEE FOR LOCAL USE FUND
BACKGROUND
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

Background (Continued)

- Indirect costs, including benefit costs, overhead and other administrative charges for those county employees directly engaged in eligible projects, not to exceed 10 percent of the yearly allocation to the county; and
 - Individual vehicle liability insurance for equipment purchased under the fund, not to exceed 10 percent of the yearly allocation to the county.
- (3) Counties may not make expenditures from the special fund for new construction on roads, bridges, curb ramps, or publicly owned ferryboat operations without the approval of the plans for construction by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. And, counties may not allocate money from the special fund to political subdivisions within the county until the application and the contracts or plans for the proposed expenditures have been made on a form prescribed by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.
- (4) Counties may encumber current funds for future road and bridge construction, reconstruction, and maintenance projects including viable municipal projects. Counties must redistribute any unencumbered balance in the special fund to political subdivisions if the unencumbered balance is more than the county's receipts during the preceding twelve month period.
- (5) Counties must submit a report to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation by January 31 for the period ending December 31 on prescribed Form MS-991, The Report of County Liquid Fuels Tax Fund, showing the receipts and expenditures of the money received by the county from the Commonwealth. Upon failure to file the report or instances of any non-compliant payments, allocations, or expenditures, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation may withhold further funding until the delinquent report is filed, the money is allocated, or the expenditures for the prior 12 months are approved.
- B. *The Vehicle Code*, as amended by Act 44 of 2007 (July 18, 2007, P.L. 169) and Act 89 of 2013 (November 25, 2013, P.L. 169), prescribes the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation with oversight authority of the Act 44 funds distributed to the counties from the Commonwealth's Motor License Fund. The County's Act 44 Tax Fund is used to account for the distribution made to the county from the Department of Transportation and the payments made for construction and maintenance of county-owned bridges.

BUCKS COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS,
AND COUNTY FEE FOR LOCAL USE FUND
BACKGROUND
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

Background (Continued)

(1) Funds received by the counties must be deposited in a special fund designated as the County Act 44 Fund and no other money may be deposited and commingled. (Note: Act 44 and Act 89 Funds may be deposited in a single account. However, the county must account for these funds independently for auditing). Money should be invested to earn interest until expended.

- For purposes of payments under (2), below, the county may borrow and place in the special fund money not in excess of the liquid fuels tax funds to be received during the current calendar year.

(2) Payments from the special fund may be used for:

- Construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and repair of public bridges for which the county is legally responsible.
- Interest and principal payments on bridge loans and bonds or sinking fund charges for such bonds becoming due within that current calendar year.
- County Engineer's salary and benefit costs for bridge work (that portion of the total calculated to be relevant to bridge work only).
- Engineering fees related to bridge work (fees in excess of 10% of the total contract price must be documented and justified to the satisfaction of the District Municipal Services Office).
- Liability insurance for bridge equipment and vehicles when the named beneficiary is the entity's Act 44 Fund.
- Inspection costs associated with bridges.
- Purchase of right-of-way for bridge construction, reconstruction, or maintenance.

BUCKS COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS,
AND COUNTY FEE FOR LOCAL USE FUND
BACKGROUND
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

Background (Continued)

- (3) For bridge maintenance/preservation activities, the county must confer with a District Municipal Services Representative to determine if Department of Transportation approval is required. All rehabilitations, replacements or any other work that affects the carrying capacity of the structure or the waterway areas requires the approval of the Department of Transportation.
 - (4) In order to receive Act 44 funds as scheduled, each county must submit an annual report showing the receipts and expenditures for the preceding 12 months. The use of the funds must be in compliance with the Act. Failure to do so may result in the county's not receiving allocations until such deficiencies are resolved.
- C. *The Vehicle Code*, as amended by Act 89 of 2013 (November 25, 2013, P.L. 169), prescribes the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation with oversight authority of the Act 89 funds distributed to the counties from the Department of Transportation. The County's Act 89 Tax Fund is used to account for the distribution made to the county from the Department of Transportation and the payments made for construction and maintenance of county-owned bridges.
- (1) Funds received by the counties must be deposited in a special fund designated as the County Act 89 Fund and no other money may be deposited and commingled. (Note: Act 89 and Act 44 Funds may be deposited in a single account. However, the county must account for these funds independently for auditing). Money should be invested to earn interest until expended.
 - For purposes of payments under (2), below, the county may borrow and place in the special fund money not in excess of the liquid fuels tax funds to be received during the current calendar year.
 - (2) Payments from the special fund may be used for:
 - Construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and repair of public bridges for which the county is legally responsible.
 - Interest and principal payments on bridge loans and bonds or sinking fund charges for such bonds becoming due within that current calendar year.

BUCKS COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS,
AND COUNTY FEE FOR LOCAL USE FUND
BACKGROUND
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

Background (Continued)

- County Engineer's salary and benefit costs for bridge work (that portion of the total calculated to be relevant to bridge work only).
 - Engineering fees related to bridge work (fees in excess of 10% of the total contract price must be documented and justified to the satisfaction of the District Municipal Services Office).
 - Liability insurance for bridge equipment and vehicles when the named beneficiary is the entity's Act 89 Fund.
 - Inspection costs associated with bridges.
 - Purchase of right-of-way for bridge construction, reconstruction, or maintenance.
- (3) For bridge maintenance/preservation activities, the county must confer with a District Municipal Services Representative to determine if Department of Transportation approval is required. All rehabilitations, replacements or any other work that affects the carrying capacity of the structure or the waterway areas requires the approval of the Department of Transportation.
- (4) In order to receive Act 89 funds as scheduled, each county must submit an annual report showing the receipts and expenditures for the preceding 12 months. The use of the funds must be in compliance with the Act. Failure to do so may result in the county's not receiving allocations until such deficiencies are resolved.
- D. *The Vehicle Code*, as amended by Act 89 of 2013 (November 25, 2013, P.L. 169), prescribes the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation with oversight authority of the County Fee For Local Use funds distributed to the counties from the Department of Transportation. The County Fee For Local Use Fund is used to account for the distribution made to the county from the Department of Transportation and the payments made for construction and maintenance of county-owned bridges.
- (1) Funds received by the counties must be deposited in a special fund. No other money may be deposited and commingled in this fund. Money should be invested to earn interest until expended.

BUCKS COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS,
AND COUNTY FEE FOR LOCAL USE FUND
BACKGROUND
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

Background (Continued)

(2) Payments from the special fund may be used for:

- Construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and repair of public roads/streets, or bridges for which the county is legally responsible including a roadway open to the use of the public for vehicular traffic on the grounds of a college or university, public or private school, or public or historical park.
- Curb ramps from to provide for access by individuals with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Department of Transportation Standards;
- Property damages and compensation of viewers for services in eminent domain proceedings involving roads, highways, and bridges;
- Ferry boat operations, where applicable.
- Acquisition, maintenance, repair and operation of traffic signs and signals;
- Erection and maintenance of stop and go signal lights, blinkers and other like traffic control devices;
- Indirect costs, including benefit costs, overhead and other administrative charges for those county employees directly engaged in eligible projects, not to exceed 10 percent of the yearly allocation to the county; and
- Transportation related safety studies or safety projects on public highways.
- The construction of sounds walls if included in a highway project as a mitigation measure for environmental purposes and all warrants are met.
- Other expenditures determined, on a case-by-case basis, to be consistent with the requirements and restrictions of Article 8, Section 11 of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

BUCKS COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS,
AND COUNTY FEE FOR LOCAL USE FUND
BACKGROUND
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

Background (Continued)

- (3) Counties may not make expenditures from the special fund for new construction on roads, bridges, curb ramps, or publicly owned ferryboat operations without the approval of the plans for construction by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.
- (4) Each county that has adopted a fee for local use ordinance must submit a set of annual reports showing the receipts and expenditures of all fee for local use funds received from the Commonwealth on forms supplied by the Center for Program Development and Management.

Basis Of Presentation

In accordance with reporting requirements prescribed by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the Form MS-991 With Adjustments, the Reports of Act 44 and Act 89 Tax Funds With Adjustments, and the Report of County Fee For Local Use Funds do not constitute complete financial presentations of the county's assets, liabilities, expenses, and fund balance but include the receipts, expenditures, and fund balances of the County Liquid Fuels Tax Fund, the County Act 44 Tax Fund, the County Act 89 Tax Fund, and the County Fee For Local Use Fund, respectively.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation prescribes that the county report the following on the Form MS-991, *Report of County Liquid Fuels Tax Fund*:

- A. The balance in the County Liquid Fuels Tax Fund at the beginning of the report calendar year.
- B. Receipts which must be itemized and include the County's Liquid Fuels Tax Fund allocations, interest, reimbursable agreements, and miscellaneous items such as loans, sale of salvageable material, and damage claims to road or bridge property.
- C. Accounts receivable (to be realized within 60 days of the year end).
- D. Total Liquid Fuels Tax funds available for expenditure and encumbrances.
- E. Expenditures for county-owned roads, highways, and bridges.
- F. Accounts payable (accrued wages, accrued payroll taxes, and accounts payable vendors to be realized within 60 days of the year end).

BUCKS COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS,
AND COUNTY FEE FOR LOCAL USE FUND
BACKGROUND
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

Background (Continued)

- G. The balance in the fund at the close of the report calendar year.
- H. Encumbered and unencumbered balances on hand at the close of the report calendar year.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation prescribes that the county report the following on the Reports Of Act 44 Tax Fund and Act 89 Tax Fund:

- A. The balance in the County Act 44 and Act 89 Tax Fund at the beginning of the report calendar year.
- B. Receipts which must be itemized and include the County's Act 44 and Act 89 allocations, interest, reimbursable agreements, and miscellaneous items such as loans, sale of salvageable material, and damage claims to road or bridge property.
- C. Total Act 44 and Act 89 funds available for expenditure.
- D. Expenditures for county-owned bridges.
- E. The balance in the fund at the close of the report calendar year.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation prescribes that the county report the following on the Reports of County Fee For Local Use Funds:

- A. The balance in the County Fee For Local Use Fund at the beginning of the report calendar year.
- B. Receipts which must be itemized and include the County's Fee For Local Use Fund allocations, interest, reimbursable agreements, and miscellaneous items such as loans, sale of salvageable material, and damage claims to road or bridge property.
- C. Total County Fee For Local Use funds available for expenditure.
- D. Expenditures.
- E. The balance in the fund at the close of the report calendar year.

BUCKS COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS,
AND COUNTY FEE FOR LOCAL USE FUND
BACKGROUND
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

Background (Continued)

Basis Of Accounting

The accompanying Form MS-991 With Adjustments, Report of Act 44 Tax Fund With Adjustments, Report of Act 89 Tax Fund With Adjustments, and Report of County Fee For Local Use Funds With Adjustments are prepared in accordance with reporting requirements prescribed by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Under this method, revenues are recognized when received and expenditures are recorded when paid.

BUCKS COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
2018 FORM MS-991 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

	Reported	Adjustments	Adjusted Amount
Actual balance in county Liquid Fuels Tax Fund on January 1, 2018	\$ 863,051.89	\$ (107,176.25)	\$ 755,875.64
<u>Receipts:</u>			
Liquid Fuels Tax Funds received from Commonwealth	374,809.60	-	374,809.60
Interest	23,768.82	-	23,768.82
Reimbursable agreements	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	80.00	1,069,756.62	1,069,836.62
Total receipts	398,658.42	1,069,756.62	1,468,415.04
Total Liquid Fuels Tax Funds available for expenditures and encumbrances	1,261,710.31	962,580.37	2,224,290.68
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Administrative	-	-	-
Minor equipment purchases	3,039.12	600.00	3,639.12
County aid payments	-	-	-
Major equipment expenditures	-	-	-
Street cleaning and gutters	-	-	-
Winter maintenance services	-	-	-
Traffic control devices	211.26	328.83	540.09
Street lighting	-	-	-
Storm sewers and drains	-	-	-
Repairs of tools and machinery	-	-	-
Maintenance and repairs - roads and bridges	649,864.98	-	649,864.98
Highway construction and rebuilding projects	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	2,354.80	654,324.21	656,679.01
Total expenditures	655,470.16	655,253.04	1,310,723.20
Remaining funds available as of December 31, 2018	\$ 606,240.15	\$ 307,327.33	\$ 913,567.48

BUCKS COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
2018 FORM MS-991 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

2018 Form MS-991 With Adjustments (Continued)

	Reported	Adjustments	Adjusted Amount
<u>Approved future year receipts and expenditures</u>			
Accounts receivable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Accounts payable	-	-	-
Unpaid encumbrances	-	-	-
Unpaid county aid grants	-	-	-
Total approved future year receipts and expenditures	-	-	-
 Year end balance available for future years as of December 31, 2018	 \$ 606,240.15	 \$ 307,327.33	 \$ 913,567.48

BUCKS COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
2019 FORM MS-991 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

	Reported	Adjustments	Adjusted Amount
Actual balance in county Liquid Fuels Tax Fund on January 1, 2019	\$ 606,240.15	\$ 307,327.33	\$ 913,567.48
<u>Receipts:</u>			
Liquid Fuels Tax Funds received from Commonwealth	339,810.76	-	339,810.76
Interest	33,612.06	-	33,612.06
Reimbursable agreements	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	80.00	19,640.42	19,720.42
Total receipts	373,502.82	19,640.42	393,143.24
Total Liquid Fuels Tax Funds available for expenditures and encumbrances	979,742.97	326,967.75	1,306,710.72
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Administrative	-	-	-
Minor equipment purchases	-	-	-
County aid payments	-	-	-
Major equipment expenditures	-	-	-
Street cleaning and gutters	-	-	-
Winter maintenance services	-	-	-
Traffic control devices	-	-	-
Street lighting	-	-	-
Storm sewers and drains	-	6,132.20	6,132.20
Repairs of tools and machinery	-	-	-
Maintenance and repairs - roads and bridges	534,356.22	(328.82)	534,027.40
Highway construction and rebuilding projects	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	6,431.80	13,508.22	19,940.02
Total expenditures	540,788.02	19,311.60	560,099.62
Remaining funds available as of December 31, 2019	\$ 438,954.95	\$ 307,656.15	\$ 746,611.10

BUCKS COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
2019 FORM MS-991 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

2019 Form MS-991 With Adjustments (Continued)

	Reported	Adjustments	Adjusted Amount
<u>Approved future year receipts and expenditures</u>			
Accounts receivable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Accounts payable	-	-	-
Unpaid encumbrances	-	-	-
Unpaid county aid grants	-	-	-
Total approved future year receipts and expenditures	-	-	-
 Year end balance available for future years as of December 31, 2019	\$ 438,954.95	\$ 307,656.15	\$ 746,611.10

BUCKS COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
2020 FORM MS-991 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

	Reported	Adjustments	Adjusted Amount
Actual balance in county Liquid Fuels Tax Fund on January 1, 2020	\$ 438,954.95	\$ 307,656.15	\$ 746,611.10
<u>Receipts:</u>			
Liquid Fuels Tax Funds received from Commonwealth	318,575.85	-	318,575.85
Interest	7,232.72	-	7,232.72
Reimbursable agreements	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	80.00	(80.00)	-
	325,888.57	(80.00)	325,808.57
Total receipts			
Total Liquid Fuels Tax Funds available for expenditures and encumbrances	764,843.52	307,576.15	1,072,419.67
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Administrative	-	-	-
Minor equipment purchases	-	-	-
County aid payments	-	-	-
Major equipment expenditures	-	-	-
Street cleaning and gutters	-	-	-
Winter maintenance services	-	-	-
Traffic control devices	-	-	-
Street lighting	-	-	-
Storm sewers and drains	-	-	-
Repairs of tools and machinery	-	-	-
Maintenance and repairs - roads and bridges	441,040.70	-	441,040.70
Highway construction and rebuilding projects	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
	441,040.70	-	441,040.70
Total expenditures			
Remaining funds available as of December 31, 2020	\$ 323,802.82	\$ 307,576.15	\$ 631,378.97

BUCKS COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
2020 FORM MS-991 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

2020 Form MS-991 With Adjustments (Continued)

	Reported	Adjustments	Adjusted Amount
<u>Approved future year receipts and expenditures</u>			
Accounts receivable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Accounts payable	-	-	-
Unpaid encumbrances	-	-	-
Unpaid county aid grants	-	-	-
Total approved future year receipts and expenditures	-	-	-
 Year end balance available for future years as of December 31, 2020			
	\$ 323,802.82	\$ 307,576.15	\$ 631,378.97

BUCKS COUNTY
2018 REPORT OF ACT 44 TAX FUND
WITH ADJUSTMENTS

	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
Balance, January 1, 2018	\$ 946,675.89	\$ -	\$ 946,675.89
<u>Receipts:</u>			
Act 44 Funds	133,239.47	-	133,239.47
Interest	-	-	-
Reimbursable agreements	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Total receipts	<u>133,239.47</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>133,239.47</u>
Total funds available	<u>1,079,915.36</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,079,915.36</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Construction	217,665.22	299.60	217,964.82
Maintenance and repair	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Total expenditures	<u>217,665.22</u>	<u>299.60</u>	<u>217,964.82</u>
Balance, December 31, 2018	<u><u>\$ 862,250.14</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (299.60)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 861,950.54</u></u>

BUCKS COUNTY
2019 REPORT OF ACT 44 TAX FUND
WITH ADJUSTMENTS

	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
Balance, January 1, 2019	\$ 862,250.14	\$ (299.60)	\$ 861,950.54
<u>Receipts:</u>			
Act 44 Funds	133,239.47	-	133,239.47
Interest	-	-	-
Reimbursable agreements	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Total receipts	<u>133,239.47</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>133,239.47</u>
Total funds available	<u>995,489.61</u>	<u>(299.60)</u>	<u>995,190.01</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Construction	115.00	(115.00)	-
Maintenance and repair	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Total expenditures	<u>115.00</u>	<u>(115.00)</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance, December 31, 2019	<u><u>\$ 995,374.61</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (184.60)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 995,190.01</u></u>

BUCKS COUNTY
2020 REPORT OF ACT 44 TAX FUND
WITH ADJUSTMENTS

	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
Balance, January 1, 2020	\$ 995,374.61	\$ (184.60)	\$ 995,190.01
<u>Receipts:</u>			
Act 44 Funds	134,358.07	(134,358.07)	-
Interest	-	-	-
Reimbursable agreements	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Total receipts	<u>134,358.07</u>	<u>(134,358.07)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds available	<u>1,129,732.68</u>	<u>(134,542.67)</u>	<u>995,190.01</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Construction	250,242.97	-	250,242.97
Maintenance and repair	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Total expenditures	<u>250,242.97</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>250,242.97</u>
Balance, December 31, 2020	<u><u>\$ 879,489.71</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (134,542.67)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 744,947.04</u></u>

BUCKS COUNTY
2018 REPORT OF ACT 89 TAX FUND
WITH ADJUSTMENTS

	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
Balance, January 1, 2018	\$ 719,089.82	\$ -	\$ 719,089.82
<u>Receipts:</u>			
Act 89 Funds	271,873.80	-	271,873.80
Interest	6,234.65	-	6,234.65
Reimbursable agreements	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Total receipts	<u>278,108.45</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>278,108.45</u>
Total funds available	<u>997,198.27</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>997,198.27</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Construction	735,337.32	-	735,337.32
Maintenance and repair	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Total expenditures	<u>735,337.32</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>735,337.32</u>
Balance, December 31, 2018	<u><u>\$ 261,860.95</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 261,860.95</u></u>

BUCKS COUNTY
2019 REPORT OF ACT 89 TAX FUND
WITH ADJUSTMENTS

	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
Balance, January 1, 2019	\$ 261,860.95	\$ -	\$ 261,860.95
<u>Receipts:</u>			
Act 89 Funds	256,346.46	(138,249.72)	118,096.74
Interest	7,463.78	-	7,463.78
Reimbursable agreements	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Total receipts	<u>263,810.24</u>	<u>(138,249.72)</u>	<u>125,560.52</u>
Total funds available	<u>525,671.19</u>	<u>(138,249.72)</u>	<u>387,421.47</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Construction	443.82	(184.60)	259.22
Maintenance and repair	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Total expenditures	<u>443.82</u>	<u>(184.60)</u>	<u>259.22</u>
Balance, December 31, 2019	<u>\$ 525,227.37</u>	<u>\$ (138,065.12)</u>	<u>\$ 387,162.25</u>

BUCKS COUNTY
2020 REPORT OF ACT 89 TAX FUND
WITH ADJUSTMENTS

	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
Balance, January 1, 2020	\$ 525,227.37	\$ (138,065.12)	\$ 387,162.25
<u>Receipts:</u>			
Act 89 Funds	239,258.67	17,394.63	256,653.30
Interest	3,028.83	-	3,028.83
Reimbursable agreements	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Total receipts	<u>242,287.50</u>	<u>17,394.63</u>	<u>259,682.13</u>
Total funds available	<u>767,514.87</u>	<u>(120,670.49)</u>	<u>646,844.38</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Construction	-	-	-
Maintenance and repair	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Total expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance, December 31, 2020	<u><u>\$ 767,514.87</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (120,670.49)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 646,844.38</u></u>

BUCKS COUNTY
2018 REPORT OF COUNTY FEE FOR LOCAL USE FUNDS
WITH ADJUSTMENTS

	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
Balance, January 1, 2018	\$ 4,089,904.36	\$ (399,182.60)	\$ 3,690,721.76
<u>Receipts:</u>			
Local Use Funds	2,756,580.00	-	2,756,580.00
Interest	-	-	-
Reimbursable agreements	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	19,682.16	19,682.16
Total receipts	<u>2,756,580.00</u>	<u>19,682.16</u>	<u>2,776,262.16</u>
Total funds available	<u>6,846,484.36</u>	<u>(379,500.44)</u>	<u>6,466,983.92</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
County-Owned road maintenance	-	-	-
County-Owned road construction	-	-	-
County-Owned bridge maintenance	1,555,449.77	(111,676.25)	1,443,773.52
County-Owned bridge construction	-	-	-
Administrative expenditures	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	544.56	19,682.16	20,226.72
Grants to political subdivisions	-	-	-
Total expenditures	<u>1,555,994.33</u>	<u>(91,994.09)</u>	<u>1,464,000.24</u>
Balance, December 31, 2018	<u><u>\$ 5,290,490.03</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (287,506.35)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 5,002,983.68</u></u>

BUCKS COUNTY
2019 REPORT OF COUNTY FEE FOR LOCAL USE FUNDS
WITH ADJUSTMENTS

	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
Balance, January 1, 2019	\$ 5,290,490.03	\$ (287,506.35)	\$ 5,002,983.68
<u>Receipts:</u>			
Local Use Funds	3,135,045.00	-	3,135,045.00
Interest	-	-	-
Reimbursable agreements	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Total receipts	<u>3,135,045.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,135,045.00</u>
Total funds available	<u>8,425,535.03</u>	<u>(287,506.35)</u>	<u>8,138,028.68</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
County-Owned road maintenance	-	-	-
County-Owned road construction	-	-	-
County-Owned bridge maintenance	891,446.74	288,986.83	1,180,433.57
County-Owned bridge construction	-	-	-
Administrative expenditures	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	262.00	-	262.00
Grants to political subdivisions	-	-	-
Total expenditures	<u>891,708.74</u>	<u>288,986.83</u>	<u>1,180,695.57</u>
Balance, December 31, 2019	<u><u>\$ 7,533,826.29</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (576,493.18)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 6,957,333.11</u></u>

BUCKS COUNTY
2020 REPORT OF COUNTY FEE FOR LOCAL USE FUNDS
WITH ADJUSTMENTS

	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
Balance, January 1, 2020	\$ 7,533,826.29	\$ (576,493.18)	\$ 6,957,333.11
<u>Receipts:</u>			
Local Use Funds	3,091,475.00	(1,594,540.00)	1,496,935.00
Interest	-	-	-
Reimbursable agreements	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Total receipts	<u>3,091,475.00</u>	<u>(1,594,540.00)</u>	<u>1,496,935.00</u>
Total funds available	<u>10,625,301.29</u>	<u>(2,171,033.18)</u>	<u>8,454,268.11</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
County-Owned road maintenance	-	-	-
County-Owned road construction	-	-	-
County-Owned bridge maintenance	3,249,159.39	190,157.27	3,439,316.66
County-Owned bridge construction	-	-	-
Administrative expenditures	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	2,638.45	-	2,638.45
Grants to political subdivisions	-	-	-
Total expenditures	<u>3,251,797.84</u>	<u>190,157.27</u>	<u>3,441,955.11</u>
Balance, December 31, 2020	<u><u>\$ 7,373,503.45</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (2,361,190.45)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 5,012,313.00</u></u>

BUCKS COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS,
AND COUNTY FEE FOR LOCAL USE FUND
AUDITOR DESCRIPTION OF SELECT TRANSACTIONS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

The following information relates to certain types of transactions for which the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation requested that we provide additional detail:

Adjustments

2018 Form MS-991

An adjustment of \$(107,176.25) was made to “Balance, January 1, 2018” because of prior report adjustments that were not carried forward in the fund balance.

An adjustment of \$1,069,756.62 was made to “Miscellaneous” receipts because a reimbursement of \$414,832.41 for a prior examination finding and a receipt of \$654,924.21 to correct a transfer in error were not reported.

An adjustment of \$600.00 was made to “Minor equipment purchases” because these expenditures were misclassified as miscellaneous.

An adjustment of \$328.83 was made to “Traffic control devices” because these expenditures were understated.

An adjustment of \$654,324.21 was made to “Miscellaneous” expenditures because a transfer in error of \$654,924.21 was not reported and an expenditure of \$600.00 for minor equipment purchases was misclassified.

2019 Form MS-991

An adjustment of \$307,327.33 was made to “Balance, January 1, 2019” to reflect the adjustment made to the fund balance on the 2018 Form MS-991.

An adjustment of \$19,640.42 was made to “Miscellaneous” receipts because a correction of a transfer in error was not reported.

An adjustment of \$6,132.20 was made to “Storm sewers and drains” because these expenditures were misclassified as miscellaneous.

An adjustment of \$(328.82) was made to “Maintenance and repairs - roads and bridges” because these expenditures were overstated.

An adjustment of \$13,508.22 was made to “Miscellaneous” expenditures because a transfer in error of \$19,640.42 was not reported and expenditures of \$6,132.20 for storm sewers and drains were misclassified.

BUCKS COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS,
AND COUNTY FEE FOR LOCAL USE FUND
AUDITOR DESCRIPTION OF SELECT TRANSACTIONS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

2020 Form MS-991

An adjustment of \$307,656.15 was made to “Balance, January 1, 2020” to reflect the adjustment made to the fund balance on the 2019 Form MS-991.

An adjustment of \$(80.00) was made to “Miscellaneous” because there were no miscellaneous receipts

2018 Report of Act 44 Tax Fund

An adjustment of \$299.60 was made to “Construction” because these expenditures were understated.

2019 Report of Act 44 Tax Fund

An adjustment of \$(299.60) was made to “Balance, January 1, 2019” to reflect the adjustment made to the Act 44 fund balance on the 2018 Report of Act 44 Tax Fund.

An adjustment of \$(115.00) was made to “Construction” because there were no expenditures for construction.

2020 Report of Act 44 Tax Fund

An adjustment of \$(184.60) was made to “Balance, January 1, 2020” to reflect the adjustment made to the Act 44 fund balance on the 2019 Report of Act 44 Tax Fund.

An adjustment of \$(134,358.07) was made to “Act 44 Funds” because the Act 44 allocation was not deposited until January 11, 2021, which was subsequent to our examination period.

2019 Report of Act 89 Tax Fund

An adjustment of \$(138,249.72) was made to “Act 89 Funds” because the June Act 89 Fund allocation was deposited into the General Fund.

An adjustment of \$(184.60) was made to “Construction” because these expenditures were overstated.

BUCKS COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS,
AND COUNTY FEE FOR LOCAL USE FUND
AUDITOR DESCRIPTION OF SELECT TRANSACTIONS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

2020 Report of Act 89 Tax Fund

An adjustment of \$(138,065.12) was made to “Balance, January 1, 2020” to reflect the adjustment to the Act 89 fund balance on the 2019 Report of Act 89 Tax Fund.

An adjustment of \$17,394.63 was made to “Act 89 Funds” because the amount of Act 89 allocations deposited into the Act 89 Tax Fund was understated.

2018 Report of County Fee For Local Use Funds

An adjustment of \$(399,182.60) was made to “Balance, January 1, 2018” because of prior report adjustments that were not carried forward in the fund balance.

An adjustment of \$19,682.16 was made to “Miscellaneous” receipts because a correction of a transfer in error was not reported.

An adjustment of \$(111,676.25) was made to “County-Owned bridge maintenance” because these expenditures were overstated.

An adjustment of \$19,682.16 was made to “Miscellaneous” because a transfer in error was not reported.

2019 Report of County Fee For Local Use Funds

An adjustment of \$(287,506.35) was made to “Balance, January 1, 2019” to reflect the adjustment to the County Fee For Local Use balance on the 2018 Report of County Fee For Local Use Funds.

An adjustment of \$288,986.83 was made to “County-Owned bridge maintenance” because these expenditures were understated.

2020 Report of County Fee For Local Use Funds

An adjustment of \$(576,493.18) was made to “Balance, January 1, 2020” to reflect the adjustment to the County Fee For Local Use balance 2018 Report of County Fee For Local Use Funds.

An adjustment of \$(1,594,540.00) was made to “Local Use Funds” because the County Fee For Local Use allocations were overstated.

BUCKS COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS,
AND COUNTY FEE FOR LOCAL USE FUND
AUDITOR DESCRIPTION OF SELECT TRANSACTIONS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

2020 Report of County Fee For Local Use Funds (Continued)

An adjustment of \$190,157.27 was made to “County-Owned bridge maintenance” because these expenditures were understated.

Miscellaneous Receipts

The following miscellaneous receipts were deposited into the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund during the examination period:

<u>Source</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
General Fund	Reimbursement (Summary Of 2008-2012 Examination Recommendations)	\$ 414,832.41	\$ -
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	Turnback allocation	80.00	80.00
General Fund	Correction of transfers in error	<u>654,924.21</u>	<u>19,640.42</u>
Totals		<u>\$1,069,836.62</u>	<u>\$19,720.42</u>

On December 3, 2018, the county deposited \$19,682.16 into its County Fee For Local Use Fund which was received from the General Fund to correct a transfer in error.

Miscellaneous Expenditures

The following miscellaneous expenditures were paid from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund during the examination period:

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Vendor	Uniform rentals	\$ 1,754.80	\$ 299.60
General Fund	Transfers in error	<u>654,924.21</u>	<u>19,640.42</u>
Totals		<u>\$656,679.01</u>	<u>\$19,940.02</u>

BUCKS COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS,
AND COUNTY FEE FOR LOCAL USE FUND
AUDITOR DESCRIPTION OF SELECT TRANSACTIONS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

Miscellaneous Expenditures (Continued)

The following miscellaneous expenditures were paid from the County Fee For Local Use Fund during the examination period:

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
General Fund	Transfer in error	\$19,682.16	\$ -	\$ -
Vendor	Advertising	544.56	262.00	692.15
Financial Institution	Bank service charges	-	-	646.30
Residents	Right of way bridge 270	-	-	1,300.00
	Totals	<u>\$20,226.72</u>	<u>\$262.00</u>	<u>\$2,638.45</u>

Transfers In Error

On January 8, 2018, the county transferred \$654,924.21 from its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund to its General Fund in error. On May 29, 2018, the county transferred this amount from its General Fund to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund to correct the transfer in error.

On December 3, 2018, the county transferred \$19,682.16 from its County Fee For Local Use Fund to its General Fund in error. On December 3, 2018, the county transferred this amount from its General Fund to its County Fee For Local Use Fund to correct the transfer in error.

On March 9, 2019, the county transferred \$19,640.42 from its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund to its General Fund in error. On September 19, 2019, the county transferred this amount from its General Fund to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund to correct the transfer in error.

BUCKS COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS,
AND COUNTY FEE FOR LOCAL USE FUND
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

Finding No. 1 - Liquid Fuels Money Over Expended On Project - Recurring.

We cited the county for liquid fuels tax fund money being over expended on projects in our prior report for the period from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2017. Our prior examination disclosed that the county expended \$1,000,067.52 of Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money on construction project No. 17-09000-001. However, the amount of Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money approved by the Department of Transportation to be expended from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for this project was \$982,017.49. The difference of \$18,050.03 should have been paid directly from the General Fund. Our current examination disclosed that the county expended an additional \$2,495.00 of Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money on construction project No. 17-09000-001. This amount should have been paid directly from the General Fund. The total amount over expended on the project was \$20,545.03.

The Department of Transportation's Regulations do not permit a county to expend Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money in excess of the amount approved on Municipal Services Completion Report Form MS-999.

The county reimbursed \$18,050.03 to the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund on December 30, 2021, which was subsequent to our current examination.

The failure to comply with the Department of Transportation's Regulations could result in the county having to reimburse an additional \$2,495.00 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

This condition occurred because the county did not document which funds were paying expenditures on this project.

Recommendations

We recommend that the county reimburse \$2,495.00 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund upon official notification by the Department of Transportation

We again recommend that, in the future, the county expend only the approved amount of Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money on road construction projects.

BUCKS COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS,
AND COUNTY FEE FOR LOCAL USE FUND
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

Finding No. 1 - Liquid Fuels Money Over Expended On Project - Recurring (Continued)

Management Response

The Deputy Controller stated:

We will verify the project expenditures with the county's General Services department. The General Service Department submits project applications, tracks expenditures, and submits project completion approvals. The General Services staff will review the over expended projects and provide response. [*sic*]

Auditor's Conclusion

During our next examination, we will determine if the county complied with our recommendations.

BUCKS COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS,
AND COUNTY FEE FOR LOCAL USE FUND
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

**Finding No. 2 - Untimely Deposit Of Allocations And Act 89 Allocation Deposited Into
The General Fund**

Our examination disclosed that the 2020 Act 44 and Act 89 Fund allocations of \$134,358.07 and \$120,855.09, respectively, which were received on December 1, 2020, were not deposited into the Act 44 Tax Fund and Act 89 Tax Fund until January 11, 2021, which was subsequent to our examination period. We further noted that the December 2020 County Fee For Local Use allocation, of \$1,594,540.00, which was received on December 1, 2020, was not deposited into the County Fee For Local Use Fund until January 4, 2021, which was subsequent to our examination.

Additionally, our examination disclosed that the June 2019 Act 89 allocation of \$138,249.72 was deposited into the General Fund on June 3, 2019. The allocation was not transferred into the Act 89 Tax Fund until May 1, 2020.

Good internal control procedures require that all funds received be deposited immediately upon receipt. The failure to do so increases the risk that errors and misappropriations may occur and remain undetected. Additionally, had the allocations been deposited in a timely manner, money may have been available for investment, potentially earning interest income which could have been used for road maintenance and repairs.

Furthermore, the Department of Transportation's *Publication 9* Section 6.5 states:

Each county must deposit the Act 89 funds it receives into a special fund called the County Act 89 Fund, which may be used only for those purposes permitted by the Act.

When the Act 89 allocation is commingled with the General Fund or other funds, the potential for the Act 89 money to be used for unauthorized purposes increases significantly.

Recommendations

We recommend that, in the future, the county deposit all allocations immediately upon receipt into the proper accounts.

In addition, the county officials should consider using the electronic transfer of funds offered by the Department of Transportation.

BUCKS COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS,
AND COUNTY FEE FOR LOCAL USE FUND
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

**Finding No. 2 - Untimely Deposit Of Allocations And Act 89 Allocation Deposited Into
The General Fund (Continued)**

Management's Response

The Deputy Controller stated:

The county was receiving paper checks during this time period. The county has now updated to ACH deposit of funds. During 2020 and 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic caused delays with both incoming and outgoing mail in the county. This resulted in late receipt of many items.

Auditor's Conclusion

During our next examination, we will determine if the county complied with our recommendations.

BUCKS COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS,
AND COUNTY FEE FOR LOCAL USE FUND
SUMMARY OF PRIOR EXAMINATIONS' RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

Summary Of 2008-2012 Examination Recommendation

In our January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2012 report, we recommended that the Department of Transportation review our examination finding to determine if the county should reimburse \$1,878,646.46 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. This amount consists of \$1,850,342.46 for failure to obtain project approvals and \$28,304.00 for expending more than the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund balance.

During our 2013-2017 examination, we reviewed a letter dated February 5, 2018, from the Department of Transportation informing the county to reimburse \$414,832.41 of the \$1,878,646.46 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. We noted that the county reimbursed this amount to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund on February 26, 2018.

Summary Of 2013-2017 Examination Recommendations

In our 2013-2017 report, we recommended that the Department of Transportation review our examination finding to determine if the county should reimburse \$72,632.18 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. This amount consists of \$54,582.15 for expending more than the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund balance and \$18,050.03 for Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money over expended on a project.

During our current examination, we reviewed a letter dated September 15, 2021, from the Department of Transportation directing the county to reimburse \$72,632.18 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. We noted that the county reimbursed this amount to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund on December 30, 2021, which was subsequent to our examination period.

In our prior report we also recommended that the county:

- Expend no more than the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund balance in a calendar year.
- Expend only the approved amount of the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money on road construction projects.

During our current examination, we noted that the county complied with our first bulleted recommendation. However, the county did not comply with our second bulleted recommendation (see Finding No. 1).

BUCKS COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS,
AND COUNTY FEE FOR LOCAL USE FUND
SUMMARY OF EXIT CONFERENCE
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

An exit conference was held August 9, 2022. Those participating were:

BUCKS COUNTY

Ms. Kimberly S. Doran, Deputy Controller

Ms. Dana Conboy, Grant Coordinator

DEPARTMENT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Mr. Fred Casella, Auditor

The results of the examination were presented and discussed in their entirety.

BUCKS COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS,
AND COUNTY FEE FOR LOCAL USE FUND
REPORT DISTRIBUTION
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

This report was initially distributed to:

The Honorable Yassmin Gramian, P.E.
Secretary
Department of Transportation

Bucks County
55 East Court Street
5th Floor
Doylestown, PA 18901

The Honorable Robert J. Harvie, Jr.
Chairman of the Board of Commissioners

The Honorable Kristian Ballerini
Treasurer

Ms. Kimberly S. Doran
Deputy Controller

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