

UTC Project Information	
Project Title	What Do Americans Think About Federal Tax Options to Support Public Transit, Highways, and Local Streets and Roads? Results from Year Four of a National Survey
University	San José State University Mineta National Transit Research Consortium
Principal Investigator	Asha Weinstein Agrawal, Ph.D.
PI Contact Information	Department of Urban & Regional Planning San Jose State University One Washington Square San Jose, CA 95192 Asha.weinstein.agrawal@sjsu.edu 408-924-5953
Funding Source(s) and Amounts Provided (by each agency or organization)	Research and Innovative Technology Administration University Transportation Centers Program (\$37,187.50) California Department of Transportation Office of Research—MS42 (\$37,187.50)
Total Project Cost	\$74,375
Agency ID or Contract Number	DTRT12-G-UTC21
Start and End Dates	January 2013 – June 2013
Brief Description of Research Project	<p>This report summarizes the results of year four of a national random-digit-dial public opinion poll asking 1,501 respondents if they would support various tax options for raising federal transportation revenues, with a special focus on understanding support for increasing revenues for public transit. Eleven specific tax options tested were variations on raising the federal gas tax rate, creating a new mileage tax, and creating a new federal sales tax. Other questions probed various perceptions related to public transit, including knowledge and opinions about federal taxes to support transit. In addition, the survey collected data on standard sociodemographic factors, travel behavior (public transit usage, annual miles driven, and vehicle fuel efficiency), and attitudinal data about how respondents view the quality of their local transportation system and their priorities for government spending on transportation in their state. All of this information is used to assess support levels for the tax options among different population subgroups.</p> <p>The survey results show that a majority of Americans would support higher taxes for transportation—under certain conditions. For example, a gas tax increase of 10¢ per gallon to improve road maintenance was supported by 67 percent of respondents,</p>

	<p>whereas support levels dropped to just 23 percent if the revenues were to be used more generally to maintain and improve the transportation system. For tax options where the revenues were to be spent for undefined transportation purposes, support levels varied considerably by what kind of tax would be imposed, with a sales tax much more popular than either a gas tax increase or a new mileage tax.</p> <p>With respect to public transit, the survey results show that most people want good public transit service in their state. In addition, two-thirds of respondents support spending gas tax revenues on transit. However, questions exploring different methods to raise new revenues found relatively low levels of support for raising gas tax or transit fare rates. Also, not all respondents were well informed about how transit is funded, with only about half knowing that fares do not cover the full cost of transit.</p>
<p>Describe Implementation of Research Outcomes (or why not implemented)</p>	<p>Agrawal, Asha. "What Do Americans Think About Federal Tax Options to Support Public Transit, Highways, and Local Streets and Roads? Results from Year Four of a National Survey." Presentation at the 2013 APTA Rail Conference and International Rail Rodeo, Philadelphia, PA, June, 2013.</p> <p>Agrawal, Asha. "What Do Americans Think About Federal Tax Options to Support Public Transit, Highways, and Local Streets and Roads? Results from Year Four of a National Survey." Presentation at the California Commonwealth Club, San Francisco, CA, June, 2013.</p> <p>Agrawal, Asha. "What Do Americans Think About Federal Tax Options to Support Public Transit, Highways, and Local Streets and Roads? Results From Year 4 of a National Survey." Presentation for SJSU's "Collegial Conversations" Seminar, San Jose, CA, September 12, 2013.</p> <p>Agrawal, Asha, and Nixon, Hilary. "What Do Americans Think About Federal Tax Options to Support Public Transit, Highways, and Local Streets and Roads? Results From Year 4 of a National Survey." Presentation at the 93rd Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board, Washington, DC, January 12, 2014.</p> <p>Agrawal, Asha. "What Do Americans Think About Federal Tax Options to Support Public Transit, Highways, and Local Streets and Roads? Results From Year 4 of a National Survey." Presentation at the Saratoga Rotary Club, Saratoga, CA, March 7, 2014.</p>

Place Any Photos Here	
Impacts/Benefits of Implementation (actual, not anticipated)	
Web Links <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reports• Project Website	Final report (MNTRC Website): http://transweb.sjsu.edu/project/1228.html