

UTC Project Information	
Project Title	Funding Resilient Infrastructure in New Jersey: Attitudes Following a Natural Disaster (Former title: Behavioral Analysis of the Impacts of Hurricane Sandy in New Jersey)
University	Rutgers University Mineta National Transit Research Consortium
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Funding Source(s) and Amounts Provided (by each agency or organization)	Research and Innovative Technology Administration University Transportation Centers Program (\$51,975)
Total Project Cost	\$51,975
Agency ID or Contract Number	DTRT12-G-UTC21
Start and End Dates	December 2013 – February 2016
Brief Description of Research Project	Recent major natural disasters in New Jersey have demonstrated the need to increase the resilience of transportation infrastructure. This research examines public attitudes toward revenue sources that can be dedicated to protecting vulnerable areas, most notably the transportation linkages on which the state depends. A statewide survey was conducted to gather data approximately four months following Superstorm Sandy, the costliest natural disaster in the state's history. The authors' objective was to sample public attitudes while the impacts of the disaster were still fresh. They found little support for temporary tax increases to improve resiliency, with the most positive support for taxing visitors (i.e., a hotel and recreational tax) and for a 30-year bond measure (i.e., taxing the future). This observation seemingly contradicts broad support for investing in new infrastructure, as well as maintaining and protecting existing infrastructure. Multivariate analysis to understand the underlying attitudes toward raising revenue found that more left-leaning or communitarian attitudes are associated with more support for gasoline, income, or sales taxes devoted to mitigating vulnerability. Those who supported investment in transit and protecting infrastructure also were more likely to support these taxes. There was no parallel finding of factors associated with taxing visitors or issuing bonds.

Describe Implementation of Research Outcomes (or why not implemented)	<p>Noland, Robert B. "Funding Resilient Infrastructure in New Jersey: Attitudes Following a Natural Disaster." Presentation at the 95th Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board, Washington, DC, January 10-14, 2016.</p> <p>This project was originally entitled: "Behavioral Analysis of the Impacts of Hurricane Sandy in New Jersey" with the objective of exploring evacuation behavior of residents following Hurricane Sandy, specifically experiences with regard to transit disruption; attitudes, interests, and preferences with regard to New Jersey shore redevelopment in terms of infrastructure, housing, and financing. The majority of project funding was a contribution to a state-wide survey conducted four months after Sandy devastated the New Jersey shore.</p> <p>The scope was scaled back when our initial data analysis found little variation in evacuation behavior of respondents from our survey, thus we focused on attitudes to infrastructure and its financing in our analysis. The title was thus changed to: "Funding Resilient Infrastructure in New Jersey: Attitudes Following a Natural Disaster" which better reflects the scope of the work completed.</p>
Place Any Photos Here	
Impacts/Benefits of Implementation (actual, not anticipated)	Also, currently under revise/resubmit for Transport Policy.
Web Links <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports • Project Website 	Final report (MNTRC Website): http://transweb.sjsu.edu/project/1243.html