

| UTC Project Information | |
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| Project Title | What Do Americans Think About Federal Tax Options to Support Public Transit, Highways, and Local Streets and Roads? Results from Year 5 of a National Survey |
| University | San José State University Mineta National Transit Research Consortium |
| Principal Investigator | Asha Weinstein Agrawal, Ph.D. |
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| Funding Source(s) and Amounts Provided (by each agency or organization) | Research and Innovative Technology Administration University Transportation Centers Program (\$36,304.50) California Department of Transportation Office of Research—MS42 \$36,304.50) |
| Total Project Cost | \$72,609 |
| Agency ID or Contract Number | DTRT12-G-UTC21 |
| Start and End Dates | June 2012 – June 2014 |
| Brief Description of Research Project | <p>This report summarizes the results of year five of a national random-digit-dial public opinion poll asking 1,503 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 69 percent of respondents, whereas support levels dropped to just 25 percent if the revenues</p> |

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| | <p>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, nearly 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 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 Five of a National Survey." Presentation at the California Commonwealth Club Event, San Francisco, CA, July 20, 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 Five of a National Survey." Presentation at the National Tax Association's 107th Annual Conference on Taxation, Santa Fe, NM, November 13, 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 Five of a National Survey." Expert testimony on transportation revenue options for the State of California. Presented at a "Town Hall" organized by California State Senator Jim Beall, San Jose, CA, December 4, 2014.</p> <p>Agrawal, Asha. "What Do Americans Think about Federal Transportation Tax Options? Results from Year 5 of a National Survey." Presentation at the 94th Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board, Washington, DC, January 12, 2015.</p> <p>Agrawal, Asha. "Expert Testimony on Transportation Revenue Options for the State of California." Presented at an information hearing to the California State Senate Committee on Housing and Transportation, Sacramento, CA, February 23, 2015.</p> |

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| 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/1328.html |