

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 Seven of a National Survey
University	San José State University Mineta National Transit Research Consortium
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Funding Source(s) and Amounts Provided (by each agency or organization)	Metropolitan Transportation Commission – (\$55,243) U.S. Department of Transportation Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology – (\$55,243)
Total Project Cost	\$110,486
Agency ID or Contract Number	DTRT12-G-UTC21
Start and End Dates	January 2016 – June 2016
Brief Description of Research Project	<p>This report summarizes the results of year seven 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. Ten 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 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), respondents' views on the quality of their local transportation system, their priorities for government spending on transportation in their state, and environmental concerns. 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</p>

	<p>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 75% of respondents, whereas support levels dropped to just 31% if the revenues were to be used more generally to maintain and improve the transportation system. For tax options in which 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 supported 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 Seven of a National Survey.” Presentation at the California Commonwealth Club, San Francisco, CA, June 18, 2016.</p> <p>Agrawal, Asha. “Transportation Funding Strategies.” Presentation at SPUR, San José, CA, July 12, 2016.</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 Seven of a National Survey.” Presentation for Valley Transportation Authority Planning Group, San José, CA, October 11, 2016.</p> <p>Nixon, Hilary, and Asha Agrawal. “Would Americans Pay More in Taxes for Better Transportation? Answers from Seven Years of National Survey Data.” Presentation at the 56th Annual Conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Portland, OR, November 4, 2016.</p> <p>Agrawal, Asha, and Hilary Nixon. “The Search for a Sustainable Source of Federal and State Transportation Revenue: Gas Taxes or Mileage Fees?” Presentation at Stanford University’s Precourt Energy Efficiency Center’s Sustainable Mobility Seminar, Palo Alto, CA, December 2, 2016.</p>

	<p>Agrawal, Asha, and Hilary Nixon. "Would Americans Pay More in Taxes for Better Transportation? Answers from Seven Years of National Survey Data." Presentation at the TRB/NCHRP Webinar: What Do Americans Think of Mileage Fees? Webinar, December 13, 2016.</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 Seven of a National Survey." Presentation for TRB's Future Interstate Committee Meeting, Washington, DC, December 20, 2016.</p> <p>Nixon, Hilary. "Transportation Challenges: The Search for a Sustainable Source of Revenues." Presentation at Santa Clara University, Environmental Studies & Sciences Colloquia, Santa Clara, CA, March 2, 2017.</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/1528.html