

**INTRO:**

Hi, I'm calling from San José State University. We're conducting an important research study on people's thoughts about transportation in the US. May we please have a few minutes of your time for this study?

Proceed to next screen

Call back later

Spanish call back

Switch to Spanish survey

No answer

Answering machine

Busy signal

Disconnected number

Refusal

Business or Fax

Language Barrier

Never Call

**LANG:**

If you wish to conduct this interview in Spanish, select it now.

English

Spanish

**Cellphone Screener Questions****QCEL1:**

Before we continue, are you over 18 years of age?

Yes

No

**TANK3:**

Thank you for your time, but we are looking only for adults 18 and older for this survey. Have a nice (afternoon/evening).

**QCEL2:**

And are you currently in a safe place to talk for a few minutes, or would you like us to call you back at another time?

Continue

Call back later

Quit

**TANK2:**

Thank you for your time. Have a nice (afternoon / evening).

**RDD Screener Questions****QA1A:**

*If that person is not available, continue with person on phone*

To make our survey as representative as possible, may I please speak to the adult in your household who had the most recent birthday, and is over 18 years old?

Continue with person on phone

Switch to new person

Call back later

Refused (DON'T READ)

**QA1X:**

Hello, I'm calling from San José State University. We're conducting an important study on people's thoughts about transportation in the US. May we please have a few minutes of your time for this study?

Yes

No

Call back later

**TANK2:**

Thank you for your time. Have a nice (afternoon / evening).

**Informed Consent****QA1XX:**

Great. This survey is completely voluntary, confidential and poses no risk to you in any way. If we come to a question you don't want to answer, just tell me and we'll move on.

**Main Survey Begins**  
**Local Conditions****Q1:**

We are interested in your opinions about the transportation system. When I talk about the transportation system, I mean local streets and roads, highways, and public transit services like buses, light rail, and trains. Ok. Here's my first question. In the community where you live, would you say that roads and highways are in very good condition, somewhat good condition, or bad condition?

Very good condition

Somewhat good condition

Bad condition

Don't know (DON'T READ)

Refused

**Q2:**

Does your community offer very good public transit service, somewhat good public transit service, poor public transit service, or no public transit service at all?

Very good service

Somewhat good service

Poor service

No service

Don't know (DON'T READ)

Refused

**DISP1:**

*If the respondent asks, this question is concerned with ALL levels of government (Federal, State, and Local)*

Now, please think about what the government could do to improve the transportation system for EVERYONE in the state where you live. I'm going to read you several options. For each one, tell me whether you think government should make that a high priority, medium priority, or low priority.

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**Transportation Priorities (randomized set)****Q3:**

*If the respondent asks, this question is concerned with ALL levels of government (Federal, State, and Local)*

How about reducing traffic congestion? Should government make that a high, medium, or low priority?

High priority

Medium priority

Low priority  
Don't know (DON'T READ)  
Refused

**Q4:**

*If the respondent asks, this question is concerned with ALL levels of government (Federal, State, and Local)*

How about maintaining streets, roads, and highways in good condition, including filling potholes? Should government make that a high, medium, or low priority?

High priority  
Medium priority  
Low priority  
Don't know (DON'T READ)  
Refused

**Q5:**

*If the respondent asks, this question is concerned with ALL levels of government (Federal, State, and Local)*

How about expanding and improving local public transit service, like buses or light rail? Should government make that a high, medium, or low priority?

High priority  
Medium priority  
Low priority  
Don't know (DON'T READ)  
Refused

**Q6:**

*If the respondent asks, this question is concerned with ALL levels of government (Federal, State, and Local)*

How about reducing accidents and improving safety? Should government make that a high, medium, or low priority?

High priority  
Medium priority  
Low priority  
Don't know (DON'T READ)  
Refused

**Q7:**

*If the respondent asks, this question is concerned with ALL levels of government (Federal, State, and Local)*

How about adding more modern, technologically advanced systems like real-time travel alerts, longer lasting pavements, and better-timed traffic lights? Should government make that a high, medium, or low priority?

High priority  
Medium priority  
Low priority  
Don't know (DON'T READ)  
Refused

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**DISP2:**

There are many ways the U.S. Congress could raise money to pay for maintaining and improving the transportation system. I'm going to ask your opinion about some of these different options. In each case, assume that the money collected would be spent ONLY for transportation purposes.

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**Revenue options (randomize set, in groups of two)**

**Q8A:**

One idea (a DIFFERENT idea) is to adopt a new national, half-cent sales tax to pay for transportation. Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose this new sales tax?  
Strongly support

Somewhat support  
Somewhat oppose  
Strongly oppose  
Don't know (DON'T READ)  
Refused

**Q8B (follow-up placeholder, should not appear):**

*INTERVIEWER: Please select "continue" & move on to the next question.*

**Q9A:**

Right now the federal government collects a tax of 18 cents per gallon when people buy gasoline. One idea (a DIFFERENT idea) to raise money for transportation is to increase the federal gas tax by 10 cents a gallon, from 18 cents to 28 cents. Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose this gas tax increase?

Strongly support  
Somewhat support  
Somewhat oppose  
Strongly oppose  
Don't know (DON'T READ)  
Refused

**Q9B:**

A VARIATION on the idea of raising the gas tax by 10 cents AT ONE TIME would be to spread the increase over 5 years. The tax would go up by 2 cents a year for each of five years. Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose THIS gas tax increase?

Strongly support  
Somewhat support  
Somewhat oppose  
Strongly oppose  
Don't know (DON'T READ)  
Refused

**Q10A:**

One idea (a DIFFERENT idea) is to adopt a new tax based on the number of miles a person drives. Each driver would pay a tax of one cent for every mile driven. For example, someone driving one hundred miles would pay a tax of one dollar. Vehicles would have an electronic meter to keep track of the miles driven, and the tax would be paid each time drivers buy gas. Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose this new mileage tax?

Strongly support  
Somewhat support  
Somewhat oppose  
Strongly oppose  
Don't know (DON'T READ)  
Refused

**Q10B:**

A VARIATION on the mileage tax just described is to have the tax rate VARY depending upon how much the vehicle pollutes. On average, vehicles would be charged one cent per mile, but vehicles that pollute less would be charged less, and vehicles that pollute more would be charged more. Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose THIS new mileage tax?

Strongly support  
Somewhat support  
Somewhat oppose  
Strongly oppose  
Don't know (DON'T READ)

Refused

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**DISP3:**

Now, imagine that the US Congress decided that the best option to raise money for transportation is to increase the federal gas tax by ten cents per gallon. I'm going to read you several different options for how the money is spent. For each, please tell me if you would strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the gas tax increase.

**Gas Tax Variations**

**Q11:**

*If the respondent has comments about why they chose their answer, record them in the box next to the answer choice. If they have no comments, enter "99".*

Would you support the gas tax increase if the new money were spent ONLY on projects to reduce LOCAL AIR POLLUTION caused by the transportation system?

Strongly support

Somewhat support

Somewhat oppose

Strongly oppose

Don't know (DON'T READ)

Refused

*NOTE: Include open-end response boxes for all answers except "Refused."*

**Q12:**

*If the respondent has comments about why they chose their answer, record them in the box next to the answer choice. If they have no comments, enter "99".*

Would you support the gas tax increase if the money were spent ONLY on projects to reduce the transportation system's contribution to GLOBAL WARMING?

Strongly support

Somewhat support

Somewhat oppose

Strongly oppose

Don't know (DON'T READ)

Refused

*NOTE: Include open-end response boxes for all answers except "Refused."*

**Q13:**

*If the respondent has comments about why they chose their answer, record them in the box next to the answer choice. If they have no comments, enter "99".*

Would you support the gas tax increase if the money were spent ONLY on projects to MAINTAIN streets, roads, and highways?

Strongly support

Somewhat support

Somewhat oppose

Strongly oppose

Don't know (DON'T READ)

Refused

*NOTE: Include open-end response boxes for all answers except "Refused."*

**Q14:**

*If the respondent has comments about why they chose their answer, record them in the box next to the answer choice. If they have no comments, enter "99".*

Would you support the gas tax increase if the money were spent ONLY on projects to reduce accidents and improve safety?

Strongly support  
 Somewhat support  
 Somewhat oppose  
 Strongly oppose  
 Don't know (DON'T READ)  
 Refused

NOTE: Include open-end response boxes for all answers except "Refused."

**Q15:**

If the respondent has comments about why they chose their answer, record them in the box next to the answer choice. If they have no comments, enter "99".

Would you support the gas tax increase if the money were spent ONLY on projects to add more modern, technologically advanced systems like real-time travel alerts, longer lasting pavements, and better-timed traffic lights?

Strongly support  
 Somewhat support  
 Somewhat oppose  
 Strongly oppose  
 Don't know (DON'T READ)  
 Refused

NOTE: Include open-end response boxes for all answers except "Refused."

**Q16:**

If the respondent has comments about why they chose their answer, record them in the box next to the answer choice. If they have no comments, enter "99".

Let me give you some information about how much the CURRENT federal gas tax costs an AVERAGE driver. Someone who drives 10,000 miles a year, in a vehicle that gets 20 miles to the gallon, will pay about 100 dollars a year. If Congress raised the gas tax by 10 cents a gallon, that same driver would now pay about 150 dollars a year. Now that you have this information, would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose a 10 cent gas tax increase?

Strongly support  
 Somewhat support  
 Somewhat oppose  
 Strongly oppose  
 Don't know (DON'T READ)  
 Refused

NOTE: Include open-end response boxes for all answers except "Refused."

**DISP4:**

Now I have a few questions about public transit. By public transit, I mean buses, light rail, and trains.

**Combined APTA / Public Transportation Finance Section**

**Q17:**

If the respondent asks about the definition of local government, say "Either cities, counties, parishes, or boroughs."

Do you happen to know who pays for public transit around the country? I'm going to read you several possibilities. Please let me know if each one DOES or DOES NOT pay for public transit. Or if you are not sure, just say "don't know".

	Does Pay	Does NOT Pay	Don't know	Refused (vol.)
Public transit riders	O	O	O	O
The federal government	O	O	O	O

State governments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Local governments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Q18:**

Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the use of your tax dollars for expanding and improving public transportation in your community?

Strongly support

Somewhat support

Somewhat oppose

Strongly oppose

Don't know (DON'T READ)

Refused

**Q19:**

Some people say that money from gas taxes should only be spent on roads and highways, since drivers are the ones who pay the tax. Other people say that it makes sense to spend money from gas taxes on public transportation, since transit helps reduce traffic and wear-and-tear on the roads. Which statement is closer to your opinion?

Gas taxes only for roads and highways

Gas taxes makes sense for public transportation

Both (vol.)

Neither (vol.)

Don't know (vol.)

Refused

*NOTE: Half of respondents should see the question written above, the other half should see the same question with the order of the phrases reversed (i.e. "Some people say that it makes sense to spend money from gas taxes on public transportation, since transit helps reduce traffic and wear-and-tear on the roads, while other people say that money from gas taxes should only be spent on roads and highways, since drivers are the ones who pay the tax...").*

**Q20:**

Every five years, the US Congress reviews its spending priorities for transportation. All things considered, what do you believe Congress should do with the LEVEL of spending for public transportation? Should Congress significantly increase, slightly increase, slightly decrease, or significantly decrease spending for public transportation?

Significantly increase

Slightly increase

Slightly decrease

Significantly decrease

Don't know (DON'T READ)

Refused

**Q21:**

Suppose Congress has voted to spend more money to expand and improve public transit around the country but has NOT yet decided how to pay for the improvements. Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose each of the following ways to raise money for public transit? **[ROTATE OPTIONS]**

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Don't know (vol)	Refused
Raise the federal gas tax	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduce spending on OTHER federal programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Raise transit fares	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Q22:****READ RESPONSES**

Now, if you could only select ONE of the three options I just described, which would you prefer? Let me read them again for you. Raise the federal gas tax, reduce spending on OTHER federal programs, or raise transit fares.?

**[ROTATE OPTIONS – SHOULD MATCH Q21]**

Raise the federal gas tax

Reduce spending on OTHER federal programs

Raise transit fares

I would equally oppose all three measures (vol.)

I would equally support all three measures (vol.)

Don't know (vol.)

Refused

**DIS4:**

I am now going to read you several statements. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each one.

**Value of Public Transportation subsection (randomize set, in groups of three)**

**NOTE: All Questions should be branched so that saying “agree” to part A takes you to part B and not C, saying “disagree” takes you to part C and not B, and DK/Refused skip over both B and C**

**Q23A:**

Here's the first (next) statement. As our country begins to recover from tough economic times, public transportation can be a solution and help pave the way to a stronger economy. Public transportation projects put Americans to work, revitalizing our communities. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Agree

Disagree

Don't know (DON'T READ)

Refused

**Q23B:**

Would you say that you strongly agree or slightly agree?

Strongly agree

Slightly agree

Don't know (DON'T READ)

Refused

**Q23C:**

Would you say that you strongly disagree or slightly disagree?



Strongly disagree  
Slightly disagree  
Don't know (DON'T READ)  
Refused

**Q24A:**

Here's the first (next) statement. Public transportation provides affordable transportation options for people. It expands access to job and career opportunities, as well as to medical facilities and schools and colleges. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Agree  
Disagree  
Don't know (DON'T READ)  
Refused

**Q24B:**

Would you say that you strongly agree or slightly agree?

Strongly agree  
Slightly agree  
Don't know (DON'T READ)  
Refused

**Q24C:**

Would you say that you strongly disagree or slightly disagree?

Strongly disagree  
Slightly disagree  
Don't know (DON'T READ)  
Refused

**Q25A:**

Here's the first (next) statement. Public transportation saves 4.2 billion gallons of gasoline that otherwise would have to be purchased from countries that may be unfriendly to America. Therefore, public transit reduces our dependence on foreign oil and transitions America toward a more energy efficient economy. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Agree  
Disagree  
Don't know (DON'T READ)  
Refused

**Q25B:**

Would you say that you strongly agree or slightly agree?

Strongly agree  
Slightly agree  
Don't know (DON'T READ)  
Refused

**Q25C:**

Would you say that you strongly disagree or slightly disagree?

Strongly disagree  
Slightly disagree  
Don't know (DON'T READ)  
Refused

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**DISP5:**

Last, I have a few questions for statistical purposes only.

## Demographic Questions

### **D1:**

*(IF RESPONDENT REFUSES TO ANSWER, ENTER 999)*

What YEAR were you born? (Open-end box)

### **D2:**

*ASK THIS QUESTION OF THE RESPONDENT*

What is your gender?

Male

Female

Refused

### **D3:**

Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin or descent?

Yes

No

Don't know

Refused

### **D4:**

Which of the following describes your race? You can select as many as apply. [READ RESPONSES]

White

Black or African American

Asian or Asian American

Other

Don't know

Refused

### **D5:**

What is the highest degree or level of education you have completed? [READ RESPONSES]

Less than high school degree

High school graduate

Some college

College graduate

Some graduate school

Graduate degree

Don't know

Refused

### **D6:**

Are you currently employed?

Yes

No

Retired

Don't know

Refused

### **D7:**

**(note new interviewer note)**

*If the respondent asks, they SHOULD include the commute to and from work, but not any miles driven while on the job.*

About how many miles did you, personally, drive during the past 12 months in all motorized vehicles? Please do not count miles you drove as part of a job.

Open-end box for # of miles driven

Don't Drive

Don't Know

Refused

**D8:**

Now think about the vehicle you drove the most in the past 12 months, to get around for personal reasons like shopping, commuting to work, or vacation trips. How many miles per gallon does the vehicle get?

Open-end box for miles per gallon

Have an electric vehicle

Don't Drive

Don't know

Refused

**D9:**

In the last 30 days, have you taken any form of public transit like a bus, light rail, or commuter train?

Yes

No

Don't know

Refused

**D10:**

As you know, many people are so busy these days they can't find time to register to vote, or they move around so often they don't get a chance to re-register. Are you now registered to vote, or have you not been able to register for one reason or another?

Yes, registered

No, not registered

I'm not a U.S. citizen / I'm registered to vote in a country outside the U.S.

Don't know

**D11:**

*(If respondent says "independent" ask: Do you mean you're registered in the Independent Party or do you mean you're registered but not with any party?)*

In what party are you registered to vote?

Democrat

Republican

Registered, but not with any party (independent, or decline-to-state in CA)

Other (including "Independent Party")

Don't know

Refused

*NOTE: Ask registered voters only*

**D12:**

How often would you say you vote: all of the time, most of the time, occasionally, seldom, or never?

All of the time

Most of the time

Occasionally

Seldom  
Never  
Don't know  
Refused

*NOTE: Ask registered voters only*

**D13:**

*(IF RESPONDENT REFUSES TO ANSWER, ENTER 999)*

What is your zip-code?

Open-end box to record ZIP code

**D14:**

*READ RESPONSES*

With regard to your telephone use, do you...  
use only a cell phone?

primarily use your cell phone?

use a cell phone and a regular landline phone equally?

primarily use your regular landline phone?

use only a regular landline phone?

Other (DO NOT READ) (include an open-end box to record response)

Don't know (DO NOT READ)

Refused (DO NOT READ)

**D15:**

*READ RANGES*

Finally, and of course confidentially, what was your total household income in 2011 from all sources, before taxes.  
Please STOP me when I get to the right category.

Less than \$25,000 per year

More than \$25,000 but less than \$50,000

More than \$50,000 but less than \$75,000

More than \$75,000 but less than \$100,000

More than \$100,000 but less than \$125,000

More than \$125,000 but less than \$150,000

More than \$150,000

Don't know

Refused

**THANK:**

Thank you for your time and your participation. Would you like the name and phone number of people you may call with questions or concerns about this survey? (IF YES) Please feel free to call: Dr. Melinda Jackson, Research Director of the Survey and Policy Research Institute at San Jose State University at 408-924-5293, or Pamela Stacks, Associate Vice President of Graduate Studies & Research at 408-924-2427.

**Questions for Interviewer**

**D16:**

*FOR INTERVIEWER ONLY! DO NOT READ ALOUD*

In which language did you conduct this survey?

English

Spanish

Other (open-end box to type in language)