National Survey of Likely Voters

April 2008
Methodology

- **Universe**: Likely Voters
- **Sample Size**: 1,000
- **Error Margin**: ±3.1%
- **Method**: On-Line (email-driven web-based survey to random sample of Survey Sampling Inc. opt-in national panel)
- **Field Dates**: April 4-6, 2008
Voters Spend Most Time Travelling By Car

Q: For each of the following forms of transportation, please indicate what percentage of the time you use that form of transportation during the course of a year. Please consider ALL of the places you go, including work, school, shopping, social visits, vacation, etc. All of the percentages entered should add up to 100%

- By car but not in a carpool: 81.9%
- By bicycling or walking: 6.4%
- By bus: 3.6%
- In a carpool or vanpool: 3.4%
- By airplane: 2.5%
- By other mass transit: 1.9%
- Amtrak: 0.4%
Safety Improvements Needed

Q: In terms of safety, please rate your opinion of the condition of the nation’s major highways and bridges

- 20% Excellent/Good
- 18% In need of minor improvements
- 40% In need of major improvements
- 40% Excellent condition
- 80% Need Improvements
Q: In terms of *congestion*, please rate your opinion of the condition of the nation’s major highways and bridges.
Invest More In Highways & Bridges

Q: In the next year, should the federal government’s investment in highway and bridge improvements be…

- More than it is today: 74%
- The same as it is today: 23%
- Less than it is today: 3%
Candidates Benefit From Talking About Congestion Relief

Q: Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for Congress who talks about relieving congestion on our nation's highways?
Candidates Significantly Benefit From Talking About Safety

Q: Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for Congress who talks about improving the safety of our nation’s highways and bridges?

- 72% More likely to vote for
- 26% Makes no difference
- 2% Less likely to vote for
Important To Keep Fuel Tax Dedicated To Highways & Bridges

Q: How important is it to you that your elected officials support the position that fuel taxes and other fees collected from highway users should be dedicated only for highway and bridge improvements?

93% Important
43% Somewhat Important
6% Very Important
1% Not Very Important
7% Not Important

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Q: Which of the following two views on transportation policy are closer to your own?

- 76% Cars, roads and bridges benefit society and we need to invest in a strong highway system to improve safety, relieve congestion, and keep the economy moving.
- 24% Cars, roads and bridges have a negative impact on society and funding for them should be redirected to promote alternative modes of transportation like bicycles, walking and mass transit.
Q: Which of the following approaches to reducing greenhouse gas emissions is closer to your own view?

- Getting people moving by reducing the number of congested traffic jams can greatly reduce wasted fuel and greenhouse gas emissions. A sound green policy is compatible with traffic congestion relief.

- The way to reduce wasted fuel and greenhouse gas emissions is to reduce the number of cars on our roads. Policies should be aimed at reducing driving and getting people out of their cars.

69% support reducing driving, while 32% support reducing congestion.
Federal Government Should Lead On Funding Major Highways & Bridges

Q: For each of the following types of transportation, please indicate which level of government you think should take the leadership role in funding, the federal government, state, or local governments.

- **Bicycle paths**: 4% Federal, 17% State, 78% County or City
- **Walking paths**: 5% Federal, 15% State, 80% County or City
- **Urban light rail and trolley transit**: 21% Federal, 58% State, 21% County or City
- **Major highways and bridges**: 72% Federal, 26% State, 2% County or City
Majority Support Some Increase In Fuel Tax

Q: Highway users pay for roads and bridges by paying federal user fees on gasoline and diesel. The current federal fuel tax hasn't changed in 15 years and is 18.4 cents per gallon. Some have suggested an increase over the next five years to pay for needed transportation projects. Which of the following would you support?
Fuel Tax Increase Opinion
By Vote Behavior

Democrats
- Recurring Increase: 46%
- One-Time Increase: 16%
- No Increase: 37%

Ticket-Splitters
- Recurring Increase: 39%
- One-Time Increase: 14%
- No Increase: 47%

Republicans
- Recurring Increase: 36%
- One-Time Increase: 18%
- No Increase: 46%
Q: Please rate the impact of the information below on your support for increased investment by the federal government on highways and bridges...

For the first time in its history, the Federal Highway Trust Fund, which is funded by the fuel tax, will be bankrupt in 2009. Without action from Congress, highway funds will be dramatically cut.

- 74% Invest More Funds for Roads & Bridges
- 21% Neither Increase or Decrease Its Investment for Roads & Bridges
- 6% Invest Less In Roads & Bridges
Q: Please rate the impact of the information below on your support for increased investment by the federal government on highways and bridges...

Due to inflation and higher costs for construction materials, today’s tax on a gallon of gasoline can only pay for half of the improvements it did 15 years ago. This means every year the government has less to spend keeping our roads and bridges up to date.
Q: Please rate the impact of the information below on your support for increased investment by the federal government on highways and bridges…

China is building an economy to compete with the U.S. By 2020, China will have a bigger Interstate Highway System than the U.S. to reduce freight delays and move people. China spends 2.5% of its GDP on highways but the U.S. only spends 0.65% of our GDP. If the U.S. does not invest more in its roads and bridges, its international competitiveness will only suffer more.
Messages: Improvements Can Save Lives

Q: Please rate the impact of the information below on your support for increased investment by the federal government on highways and bridges...

Of the nearly 43,000 lives lost annually on U.S. highways, about 14,000 can be linked to substandard road conditions, obsolete designs or unprotected roadside hazards. Investing more in roads and bridges will save lives.
Q: Please rate the impact of the information below on your support for increased investment by the federal government on highways and bridges…

21% of the nation’s major highway bridges have been rated by the Federal Highway Administration as either structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. We cannot wait for another bridge collapse to invest in bridge improvements.
Q: As mentioned earlier, the current federal fuel tax, set fifteen years ago, is 18.4 cents per gallon. After reading more information about the state of our nation's roads, which of the following would you support??
Race/Ethnicity

- Caucasian/White: 78%
- African American/Black: 11%
- Asian American or Pacific Islander: 2%
- Hispanic or Latino: 8%
- Other: 0%
- Prefer not to say: 1%
Gender

- Male: 48%
- Female: 52%