

2021 National Taxes Survey

Start of Block: Default Question Block

JS

Q1 Researchers at the Mineta Transportation Institute, San Jose State University, are conducting a survey to gather your thoughts about transportation in the United States. Your opinions are very important, no matter how much or little you travel. Public officials can use the survey results to shape transportation services in communities throughout the country. The survey takes about 10 minutes and is anonymous. Your participation is completely voluntary. You can refuse to participate or stop the survey at any time without any negative effect on your relations with San Jose State University. If you participate, there are no anticipated risks to you and no anticipated benefits other than the satisfaction of sharing your views with the researchers. For more information about the study, contact Professor Asha W. Agrawal at asha.weinstein.agrawal@sjsu.edu. By agreeing to participate in the study, it is implied that you have read and understand the above information. Please do not write any identifying information on the survey/questionnaire.

Q2 Do you agree to the above terms? By clicking "Yes," you consent that you are willing to answer the questions in this survey.

☐ Yes (1)

☐ No (2)

Skip To: End of Block If Q2 = 2

Q3 We care about the quality of our survey data and hope to receive the most accurate measures of your opinions, so it is important to us that you thoughtfully provide your best answer to each question in the survey.

Do you commit to providing your thoughtful and honest answers to the questions in this survey?

- ☐ I will provide my best answers (1)
- ☐ I will not provide my best answers (2)
- ☐ I can't promise either way (3)

Skip To: End of Block If Q3 != 1

End of Block: Default Question Block

Start of Block: State & zip code

Q5 In which state do you currently reside?

▼ Alabama (1) ... I do not reside in the United States (53)



Q4 What is your zip code?

End of Block: State & zip code

Start of Block: Gender, age, ethnicity, race, employment, household size, income

Q6 Do you describe yourself as a man, a woman, or in some other way?

- ☐ Man (1)
- ☐ Woman (2)
- ☐ Some other way (3)



Q7 How old are you? (years)

Skip To: End of Block If Condition: How old are you? (years) Is Less Than 18. Skip To: End of Block.

Q8 What is your current employment status?

- ☐ Working for pay (1)
 - ☐ Unemployed, but looking for work (2)
 - ☐ Not working for pay, by choice (retired, etc.) (3)
-

Q9 Are you of Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish origin?

- ☐ Yes (1)
 - ☐ No (2)
-

Q10 Which of the following describe your race? Select all that apply.

- ☐ White (1)
 - ☐ Black or African-American (2)
 - ☐ Asian or Asian-American (3)
 - ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native (4)
 - ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (5)
 - ☐ Other (6) _____
-

Q11 Next, a few questions about your household. Here, “household” means all the people currently living with you in your home. (Do not include renters or tenants.) If you live in a dormitory, in a boarding house, or with roommates, just answer the following questions for yourself.

Q12 How many people currently live in your household, including you?

Number of adults (18 or over): (1)

Number of children under 18 (2)

▼ 1 (1) ... 10+ ~ 10+ (120)

Q13 What was your total household income last year from all sources, before taxes?

- ☐ 0 to \$4,999 (1)
- ☐ \$5,000 - \$9,999 (2)
- ☐ \$10,000 - \$24,999 (3)
- ☐ \$25,000 - \$49,999 (4)
- ☐ \$50,000 - \$74,999 (5)
- ☐ \$75,000 - \$99,999 (6)
- ☐ \$100,000 - \$149,999 (7)
- ☐ \$150,000 - \$199,999 (8)
- ☐ \$200,000 or more (9)

End of Block: Gender, age, ethnicity, race, employment, household size, income

Start of Block: Transportation system quality options

Q14

We are interested in your opinions about the transportation system. The “transportation

system” means local streets and roads, highways, and public transit services like buses, light rail, and trains.

Q15 In your community, how is the quality of:

	Very good (1)	Somewhat good (2)	Somewhat bad (3)	Very bad (4)	Not sure/ doesn't apply (5)
Interstates, highways, and freeways (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Local streets and roads (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bicycle and pedestrian facilities (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public transit (bus, rail, etc.) (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q16 How concerned are you about traffic congestion in your community?

- ☐ Very concerned (1)
- ☐ Somewhat concerned (2)
- ☐ Not at all concerned (3)

End of Block: Transportation system quality options

Start of Block: Transportation goals

Q17 The next questions ask for your opinion about what government can do to improve transportation in the United States.



Q18 How important are the following transportation-related goals for the United States?

	Very important (1)	Somewhat important (2)	Not important (3)
Reduce traffic congestion (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduce crashes and improve safety (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduce health impacts caused by air pollution from cars and trucks (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation sources that contribute to climate change (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Make it more convenient to go places without driving (bus, walk, bike, etc.) (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensure that everyone, regardless of income, can conveniently get to jobs, school, health care, etc. (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Q64

Now, imagine that Congress is deciding how to spend transportation money in the next 5 years. What percent of the money should go to each of the following goals? The total must add up to 100%.

Reduce traffic congestion : _____ (1)

Reduce crashes and improve safety : _____ (2)

Reduce health impacts caused by air pollution from cars and trucks : _____ (3)

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation sources that contribute to climate change : _____ (4)

Make it more convenient to go places without driving (bus, walk, bike, etc.) : _____ (5)

Ensure that everyone, regardless of income, can conveniently get to jobs, school, health care, etc. : _____ (6)

Total : _____

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Q19 As you may be aware, the federal government charges a gas tax and spends the money collected for transportation. Listed below are different ways the government could spend that money to improve the transportation system.

How much of a priority should each one be?

	High (1)	Medium (2)	Low (3)	Not at all (4)
Build/improve sidewalks (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide discounted public transit fares for low-income people (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide financial incentives for people to purchase electric vehicles (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Build/improve bike lanes and bike paths (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Install more charging stations for electric vehicles (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Add more frequent public transit service on existing routes (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Expand public transit service into new areas not already served (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintain local streets and roads (10)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Build/widen local roads and streets (11)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Build/widen
interstates,
highways, and
freeways (12)



Maintain
interstates,
highways, and
freeways (13)



Maintain public
transit (rail,
buses, etc.) (15)



Keep public
transit safe to
use during the
pandemic (6)



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Q20 Here is the same list of transportation purposes that the federal government could spend the gas tax money on. Select the three you think are most important.

- ☐ Build/improve sidewalks (1)
- ☐ Provide discounted public transit for low-income people (2)
- ☐ Provide financial incentives for people to purchase electric vehicles (4)
- ☐ Build/improve bike lanes and bike paths (5)
- ☐ Install more charging stations for electric vehicles (7)
- ☐ Add more frequent public transit service on existing routes (8)
- ☐ Improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists (9)
- ☐ Expand public transit service into new areas not already served (10)
- ☐ Maintain local streets and roads (11)
- ☐ Build/widen local roads and streets (12)
- ☐ Build and/or widen interstates, highways, and freeways (13)
- ☐ Maintain interstates, highways, and freeways (14)
- ☐ Maintain public transit (rail, buses, etc.) (15)
- ☐ Keep public transit safe to use during the pandemic (6)

End of Block: Transportation goals

Start of Block: Transportation types and expenses

Q66 The next set of questions ask about the types of transportation your household uses and how much money your household spends on certain transportation-related expenses.

As a reminder, "household" means all the people currently living with you in your home. (Do not include renters or tenants.) If you live in a dormitory, in a boarding house, or with roommates, just answer the following questions for yourself.

Q21

In the last 30 days, which types of transportation have you or any other members of your household used? Check all that apply.

(For example, if you drove yourself and your child took the bus, you'd check both "drive yourself" and "public transit.")

- ☐ Drive yourself (car, truck, motorcycle, etc.) (1)
 - ☐ Ride as a passenger in a personal vehicle (exclude trips in taxis, rideshare like Uber/Lyft, etc.) (2)
 - ☐ Public transit (bus, light-rail, ferry, etc.) (3)
 - ☐ Taxi (4)
 - ☐ Ridesharing service like Uber or Lyft (5)
 - ☐ Walk (6)
 - ☐ Bicycle (7)
 - ☐ Electric kick-scooter, skateboard, or other small device (8)
 - ☐ Airplane (10)
 - ☐ Other (9) _____
-

Q67 In a typical month prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, which types of transportation did you and any other members of your household use? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Drive yourself (car, truck, motorcycle, etc.) (1)
 - ☐ Ride as a passenger in a personal vehicle (exclude trips in taxis, rideshare like Uber/Lyft, etc.) (2)
 - ☐ Public transit (bus, light-rail, ferry, etc.) (3)
 - ☐ Taxi (4)
 - ☐ Ridesharing service like Uber or Lyft (5)
 - ☐ Walk (6)
 - ☐ Bicycle (7)
 - ☐ Electric kick-scooter, skateboard, or other small device (8)
 - ☐ Airplane (10)
 - ☐ Other (9) _____
-

Q68 In a typical month prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, how much did your household spend on the following expenses?

Fuel for personal vehicles : _____ (1)

Parking : _____ (2)

Tolls on bridges and highways, including express lane fees : _____ (3)

Public transit (buses, trains, subways, ferries, etc.) : _____ (4)

Taxis or ride-hailing services (e.g., Lyft or Uber) : _____ (5)

Other transportation-related expenses : _____ (6)

Total : _____

Q72 How often does your household not have enough money to pay for gasoline, transit fares, or other transportation costs?

	Frequently (2)	Occasionally (3)	Never (4)
Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
During the COVID-19 pandemic (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

End of Block: Transportation types and expenses

Start of Block: Travel behavior

Q22

About how many miles did you, personally, drive during the past 12 months in all motorized vehicles? If you work, include the commute to and from work, but not any miles driven while on the job.

- ☐ 0 miles (Don't drive) (2)
- ☐ 1 - 5,000 miles (3)
- ☐ 5,001 - 7,500 miles (4)
- ☐ 7,501 - 10,000 miles (5)
- ☐ 10,001 - 12,500 miles (6)
- ☐ 12,501 - 15,000 miles (1)
- ☐ 15,001 - 20,000 miles (7)
- ☐ 20,001 miles or more (8)

Skip To: End of Block If Q22 = 2

Q23 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.

Q24 What is the make and model of that vehicle?

Make (4)

Model (5)

▼ make (1) ... Yugo ~ Other (1696)

Q25 And what is the year of that vehicle?

Year (1)

▼ 2021 (1) ... pre-1984 (39)

Q26 Is this vehicle a 100% all-electric vehicle?

☐ Yes (1)

☐ No (2)

Skip To: End of Block If Q26 = 1



Q27 How many miles per gallon does the vehicle get? Your best guess is fine.

End of Block: Travel behavior

Start of Block: Gas Tax Questions

Q30 There are many ways the U.S. Congress could raise money to pay for maintaining and improving the transportation system. The next few questions ask your opinion about some of these options. In each case, assume that the money collected would be spent only for transportation purposes.

Q31 Right now the federal government collects a tax of 18¢ per gallon when people buy gasoline. One idea to raise money for transportation is to increase the federal gas tax by 10¢ a gallon, from 18¢ to 28¢. Would you support or oppose this gas tax increase?

- ☐ Strongly support (1)
- ☐ Somewhat support (2)
- ☐ Somewhat oppose (3)
- ☐ Strongly oppose (4)

Q32 Now, imagine that the U.S. Congress decided that the best option to raise money for transportation is to increase the federal gas tax by 10¢ per gallon. Would you support or oppose the gas tax increase if the new money were spent only on projects to:

	Strongly support (1)	Somewhat support (2)	Somewhat oppose (3)	Strongly oppose (4)
Reduce local air pollution caused by the transportation system (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduce the transportation system's contribution to global warming (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintain streets, roads, and highways (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduce accidents and improve safety (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduce traffic congestion (9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

End of Block: Gas Tax Questions

Start of Block: Wording

Q33 Some people say that money from gas taxes should only be spent on roads and highways, since drivers pay the tax. Other people say gas tax money should be used to pay for public transit in addition to roads and highways, because transit helps reduce traffic congestion and wear-and-tear on the roads. Would you support or oppose spending some gas tax money on public transit?

☐ Support (1)

☐ Oppose (2)

Q34 Some people say gas tax money should be used to pay for public transit in addition to roads and highways, because transit helps reduce traffic congestion and wear-and-tear on the roads. Other people say that money from gas taxes should only be spent on roads and highways, since drivers pay the tax. Would you support or oppose spending some gas tax money on public transit?

☐ Support (1)

☐ Oppose (2)

End of Block: Wording

Start of Block: Mileage Fee Questions

Q35 Now, imagine that the U.S. Congress decides to replace the gas tax with a mileage fee of 3¢ per mile driven. That means someone driving 10,000 miles a year would pay \$300. Vehicles would have an electronic meter to keep track of the miles driven.

Q36 Would you support or oppose replacing the gas tax with such a mileage fee?

- ☐ Strongly support (1)
 - ☐ Somewhat support (2)
 - ☐ Somewhat oppose (3)
 - ☐ Strongly oppose (4)
-

Q73 If Congress adopts a mileage fee, would you support or oppose charging a lower rate to low-income drivers?

- ☐ Strongly support (1)
 - ☐ Somewhat support (2)
 - ☐ Somewhat oppose (4)
 - ☐ Strongly oppose (5)
-

Q37 A variation on the mileage fee concept is to have the fee rate vary depending upon how much the vehicle pollutes. On average, vehicles would be charged 3¢ per mile, but vehicles that pollute less would be charged less, and vehicles that pollute more would be charged more. Would you support or oppose this new mileage fee?

- ☐ Strongly support (1)
 - ☐ Somewhat support (2)
 - ☐ Somewhat oppose (3)
 - ☐ Strongly oppose (4)
-

Q38 Another variation on the mileage fee concept is to replace the gas tax with a mileage fee of 3¢ per mile for all gas and diesel vehicles, but with a different rate for all-electric vehicles.

What rate per mile do you think electric vehicles should pay?

- ☐ The same rate as gas/diesel vehicles (1)
- ☐ Half the rate set for gas/diesel vehicles (2)
- ☐ Nothing (electric vehicles pay no fee) (3)

Q39 Now imagine that the US Congress decides to keep the gas tax, but to add a new per-mile "Business Road-Use Fee" for miles that commercial vehicles drive on the job. (These vehicles would continue to pay the current gas tax, as well.)

Would you support or oppose this new Business Road-Use Fee for the following types of commercial vehicles?

	Strongly support (1)	Somewhat support (2)	Somewhat oppose (3)	Strongly oppose (4)
Delivery & freight trucks (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Taxis (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ridehailing vehicles (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

End of Block: Mileage Fee Questions

Start of Block: Mileage fee opinions (equity, privacy, payment frequency)

Q40 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

I'm already tracked everywhere I go through my phone, so having my mileage tracked for a mileage fee wouldn't really bother me.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (3)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (4)



Q41 Which statement is closer to your opinion?

- ☐ A mileage fee is MORE fair than the gas tax because everyone pays the same for use of the roads, regardless of vehicle fuel efficiency or vehicle type (electric vs. gas vehicles) (1)
- ☐ A mileage fee is LESS fair than the gas tax because the mileage fee doesn't give a break to people who buy cleaner vehicles. (2)



Q42 If Congress does create a federal mileage fee, how would you prefer to pay? Remember that the total amount you pay annually would be the same in each option.

- ☐ Pay a bill that comes once a year (1)
- ☐ Pay a bill that comes once a month (2)
- ☐ Pay each time I purchase gas/diesel or charge an electric vehicle (3)

End of Block: Mileage fee opinions (equity, privacy, payment frequency)

Start of Block: Gas tax last raised

Q43 As best you remember, when did the federal gas tax rate last change?

- ☐ Less than a year ago (7)
 - ☐ 1 to 3 years ago (1)
 - ☐ 4 to 10 years ago (2)
 - ☐ 11 to 15 years ago (3)
 - ☐ 16 to 20 years ago (4)
 - ☐ More than 20 years ago (5)
 - ☐ Don't know (6)
-

Q45

Now we have a question about the state where you live.

As best you remember, when did the state gas tax rate last change?

- ☐ Less than a year ago (7)
- ☐ 1 to 3 years ago (1)
- ☐ 4 to 10 years ago (2)
- ☐ 11 to 15 years ago (3)
- ☐ 16 to 20 years ago (4)
- ☐ More than 20 years ago (5)
- ☐ Don't know (6)

End of Block: Gas tax last raised

Start of Block: APTA Questions

Q48 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Public transportation is important for our country's future because it helps to reduce traffic congestion and is better for the environment.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
 - ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
 - ☐ Somewhat disagree (3)
 - ☐ Strongly disagree (4)
 - ☐ Don't know (5)
-

Q49 Do you support or oppose the use of your tax dollars for creating, expanding and improving public transportation?

- ☐ Strongly support (1)
 - ☐ Somewhat support (2)
 - ☐ Somewhat oppose (3)
 - ☐ Strongly oppose (4)
-

Q50 As America looks to the future, should the country increase or decrease investment in public transportation?

- ☐ Significantly increase (1)
 - ☐ Somewhat increase (2)
 - ☐ Somewhat decrease (3)
 - ☐ Significantly decrease (4)
-

Q70 Do you support or oppose emergency funding of public transportation to provide essential services to get front line workers to jobs?

- ☐ Strongly support (1)
 - ☐ Somewhat support (2)
 - ☐ Somewhat oppose (3)
 - ☐ Strongly oppose (4)
-

Q71 Do you support or oppose emergency funding of public transportation to help our nation's economy recover?

- ☐ Strongly support (1)
- ☐ Somewhat support (2)
- ☐ Somewhat oppose (3)
- ☐ Strongly oppose (4)

End of Block: APTA Questions

Start of Block: Geography, Education, Political Affiliation

Q52 Finally, a few last questions about you.

Q53 How would you describe the area where you live?

- ☐ Urban part of a city/region (1)
- ☐ Suburban part of a city/region (2)
- ☐ Small town (3)
- ☐ Rural area (4)

Q54 What is the highest degree or level of education you have completed?

- ☐ Less than high school (1)
 - ☐ High school diploma or GED (2)
 - ☐ Some college (includes vocational or technical degree) (3)
 - ☐ Bachelor's degree (4)
 - ☐ Graduate degree (5)
-

Q55 Are you currently registered to vote, or have you not been able to register for one reason or another?

- ☐ Yes, registered to vote (1)
- ☐ No, not registered to vote (2)

Skip To: Q57 If Q55 = 2

Q56 How often would you say you vote?

- ☐ All of the time (1)
 - ☐ Most of the time (2)
 - ☐ Occasionally (3)
 - ☐ Seldom (4)
 - ☐ Never (5)
-

Q57 In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

- ☐ Republican (1)
- ☐ Democrat (2)
- ☐ Independent (no party affiliation) (3)
- ☐ Some other party (4)

Display This Question:

If Q57 = 3

Or Q57 = 4

Q58 As of today, do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

- ☐ Republican (1)
- ☐ Democrat (2)
- ☐ Neither (3)

End of Block: Geography, Education, Political Affiliation

Start of Block: Open-ended

Q59 Do you have any ideas you would like to share about how the federal government could raise funds for transportation?

End of Block: Open-ended
