

2019 National Taxes Survey

Start of Block: Default Question Block

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)

End of Block: Default Question Block

Start of Block: Block 6



Q3 What is your zip code?

Q4 In which state do you currently reside?

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

End of Block: Block 6

Start of Block: Block 5

Q5 What is your gender?

- ☐ Male (1)
- ☐ Female (2)
- ☐ Other (3)



Q6 How old are you? (years)

Skip To: End of Block If How old are you? (years) < 18

Q7 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)

Q8 Are you of Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish origin?

- ☐ Yes (1)
- ☐ No (2)

Q9 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) _____
-

Q10 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.



Q11 How many people currently live in your household, including you?

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

 - ☐ Number of children under 18 (2)

-

Q12 What was your total household income in 2018 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: Block 5

Start of Block: Block 1

Q13

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.

Q14 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"/>

Q15 How concerned are you about traffic congestion in your community?

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

End of Block: Block 1

Start of Block: Block 2

Q16 The next questions ask for your opinion about what government can do to improve transportation in the United States.



Q17 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 for everyone (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"/>
Maintain and improve roads, streets, highways, and bridges (5)	<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"/>



Q18 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"/>
Subsidize public transit fares for low-income people (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Develop programs that encourage people to switch from driving their cars to walking, biking, or using transit (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide financial incentives for people to purchase electric vehicles (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Build/improve bike lanes and bike paths (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use advanced technologies to reduce congestion and increase reliability (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Install more charging stations for electric vehicles (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Add more frequent public transit service on existing routes (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Expand public transit service into new areas not already served (9)	<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)



Q19 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)
- ☐ Subsidize public transit for low-income people (2)
- ☐ Develop programs that encourage people to switch from driving their cars to walking, biking, or using transit (3)
- ☐ Provide financial incentives for people to purchase electric vehicles (4)
- ☐ Build/improve bike lanes and bike paths (5)
- ☐ Use advanced technologies to reduce congestion and increase reliability (6)
- ☐ 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)
- ☐ Fix local streets and roads (11)
- ☐ Build/widen local roads and streets (12)
- ☐ Build and/or widen interstates, highways, and freeways (13)
- ☐ Fix interstates, highways, and freeways (14)

End of Block: Block 2

Start of Block: Block 3

Q20 Now we have a few questions about your personal transportation and how you get around.

Q21 What is the most recent time you used each type of transportation?

	Last 7 days (1)	Last 30 days (2)	Not Used (3)
Drive yourself (car, truck, motorcycle, etc.) (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ride as a passenger in a personal vehicle (exclude trips in taxis, rideshare like Uber/Lyft, etc.) (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public transit (bus, train, ferry, etc.) (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Taxi (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ridesharing service like Uber or Lyft (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walk to get somewhere (a store, work, friend's house, etc.) (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bicycle to get somewhere (a store, work, friend's house, etc.) (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Electric kick-scooter, skateboard, or other small device (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q22 Do you have any physical or other health conditions that limit your ability to:

	Yes (1)	No (2)
Walk (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bike (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drive (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Take public transit (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q23

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.

- ☐ Annual miles driven (1) _____
- ☐ Don't drive (2)

Skip To: End of Block If About how many miles did you, personally, drive during the past 12 months in all motorized vehicl... = Don't drive

Q24 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?

- ☐ Miles per gallon (e.g., 22 mpg) (1)

- ☐ Have an electric vehicle (2)
- ☐ Don't know (3)
-

Q25 What is the make of that vehicle (e.g., Honda, Ford)?

Q26 What is the model of that vehicle (e.g., Civic, Explorer)?



Q27 What is the year of that vehicle?

End of Block: Block 3

Start of Block: Block 9

Q28 Now, we have a few questions about what you spend on transportation. In a typical month, how much do you spend on the following expenses?

Q29 Fuel for personal vehicles (e.g., \$125)

Q30 Parking

Q31 Tolls on bridges and highways, including express lane fees

Q32
Public transit (buses, trains, subways, ferries, etc.)

Q33 Ride-hailing services (e.g., Lyft or Uber)

Q34 Vehicle rental charges, including car-share programs like Zipcar and Car2go

Q35 Shared bikes, e-scooters, or other micro-mobility devices

Q36 Other expenses (please describe and give cost)

Q37 The federal government charges a tax on gasoline. If a regular gallon of gas costs \$3.00, how much of that cost do you think is the federal gas tax?

- ☐ Less than 10 ¢ (4)
- ☐ 11¢ to 25¢ (7)
- ☐ 26¢ to 50¢ (8)
- ☐ 51¢ to 75¢ (9)
- ☐ 76¢ to \$1.00 (10)
- ☐ More than \$1.00 (11)

Q38 What is your best guess of how much you pay per year in federal gas taxes?

- ☐ Annual gas taxes spent (e.g., \$100) (1)

- ☐ Do not buy gas (2)

Start of Block: Gas Tax Questions

Q39 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.

Q40 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)
-

Q41 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

Q42 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)

Q43 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

Q44 Now, imagine that the US Congress decides to replace the gas tax with a mileage fee of one penny per mile driven. That means someone driving 10,000 miles a year would pay \$100. Vehicles would have an electronic meter to keep track of the miles driven.

Q45 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)

Q46 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 1¢ 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 tax?

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

Q47 Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about a federal mileage fee?

	Strongly agree (1)	Somewhat agree (2)	Somewhat disagree (3)	Strongly disagree (4)
A mileage fee is more fair than a 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)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environmentally-friendly vehicles should be charged a lower fee per mile than more polluting vehicles (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tracking mileage is an invasion of privacy (4) I'm already tracked everywhere I go through my phone, so having my mileage tracked for a mileage fee wouldn't really bother me (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A mileage fee is unfair to people who live in rural areas (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

A mileage fee is unfair for people who have to drive long distances for work (7)



Q48 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 Questions

Start of Block: Block 4

Q49 Finally, a few last questions about you.

Q50 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)

Q51 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)
-

Q52 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: Q54 If Are you currently registered to vote, or have you not been able to register for one reason or ano... = No, not registered to vote

Q53 How often would you say you vote?

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

Q54 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 In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent? = Independent (no party affiliation)

Or In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent? = Some other party

Q55 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: Block 4

Start of Block: Block 11

Q56 Is there anything you would like to tell us about the idea of replacing the federal gas tax with a mileage fee? Do you think this is a good idea? Why or why not?

End of Block: Block 11
