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**Washington State Transportation Commission
Statewide Transportation Survey Results
Washington State Residents 18 or older
n=5518; Effective Margin of Error = +/-2.0 points
September 16 – October 24, 2011
EMC #11-4483**

This is a survey about transportation issues in your local area and across the State. It is your chance to let state transportation policymakers know what is most important to you.

1. To ensure that we get a mix of views within each household, it is important that this survey be filled out by the **adult (age 18 or older) in your household who had the most recent birthday**.
2. This entire survey is **confidential and anonymous**.
3. Completing this survey based on **your own thoughts and opinions** is important.

Please visit www.wstc.wa.gov to learn more about the Washington State Transportation Commission.

DEFINITION: When we say "**Washington State's transportation system**" we mean the roads, highways, bridges, public transit, rail, ferries, airports, sidewalks, and bike lanes that **connect the state** to move people & goods.

1. How urgent do you feel it is to make sure **Washington's transportation system** works effectively today and into the future?

Not at all urgent	Extremely urgent	
1 2 3	5 6 7	Not sure
4		
2. Using an A, B, C, D or F grading scale, how would you rate **Washington's transportation system** overall?
3. **(ASK IF Q2 IS NOT "A: EXCELLENT")** In your mind, what changes would need to be made to our state's transportation system to improve the grade you gave? (1st response shown)

What grade would you give the state for...

SCALE:	A: Excellent	B: Above Average	C: Average	D: Below Average	F: Failing
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(ALL ITEMS ARE PRESENTED AT ONCE IN RANDOM ORDER)

4. spending transportation dollars responsibly?
5. making sure your area of the state gets a fair share of transportation funding?
6. completing transportation projects on schedule?

DEFINITION: When we say the transportation system in “**your local area**” we mean any roads, highways, bridges, public transit, rail, ferries, airports, sidewalks, or bike lanes that **connect your city or town and the areas immediately surrounding it** to move people & goods.

7. How would you rate the transportation system **in your local area** - that is in your city or town and the areas immediately surrounding it?
8. What do you think is the most urgent transportation priority facing **your local area**? (1st response shown)

DEFINITION: When we say the transportation system “**in your region**” we mean any roads, highways, bridges, public transit, rail, ferries, airports, sidewalks, or bike lanes that **connect your county and nearby counties** to move people & goods.

9. How would you rate the transportation system **in your region** – that is in your county and nearby counties?
10. Outside of your local area, what do you think is the most urgent transportation priority facing **your region**?
11. Thinking about the rest of the state, what do you think is the most urgent transportation priority **outside of your region**?

12. There are a number of objectives our transportation system is designed to meet. If you had **100 points** to divide between the five objectives below, how many points would you assign to each objective? For example, if you assign 25 points to “improving safety” that means you think “improving safety” should get 25% of the focus. The total for the 5 objectives should add up to 100 points.

(ALL ITEMS ARE PRESENTED AT ONCE IN RANDOM ORDER)

Improving safety: making our roads, bridges, transit systems, airports, ferries, sidewalks and bike paths safer through things like improved design and increased enforcement
Increasing capacity: improving the movement of goods and people through things like widening existing roads, and building new roads to accommodate our growing population and to connect more remote communities
Maintaining the system: preserving and extending the life of our current transportation system through ongoing maintenance of our roads, bridges, transit systems, ferries, sidewalks and bike paths
Protecting the environment: promoting transportation investments that help reduce air and water pollution, conserve energy and minimize impacts on the environment
Expanding travel options: giving people more options for getting around through things like expanded public transit, more passenger rail, carpooling and bike and pedestrian improvements

DEFINITION: When we say “**our transportation system**” we mean the roads, highways, bridges, public transit, rail, ferries, airports, sidewalks, and bike lanes that **connect the state** to move people & goods.

13. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The State has enough revenue to keep our transportation system safe, effective and properly maintained.
1. Strongly Agree 2. Somewhat Agree 3. Somewhat Disagree 4. Strongly Disagree 5. Not sure

Please indicate how important each of the following transportation components is to you.

How important is this to you?

(ALL ITEMS ARE PRESENTED AT ONCE IN RANDOM ORDER)

14. Maintaining and repairing existing roads & highways
15. Widening and building more roads & highways
16. Making sure rural roads and mountain passes remain open year round
17. Expanding public transit services like buses, vanpools, and dial-a-ride
18. Adding or increasing intercity passenger rail service
19. Building bike lanes
20. Building or improving sidewalks
21. Operating and maintaining Washington’s ferry system
22. Improving regional airports
23. Improving roads and infrastructure at shipping ports to move freight and goods
24. Increasing law enforcement and public safety efforts on our state highways

25. In general, would you support or oppose raising some transportation taxes and fees to increase funding for those transportation elements you feel are important?
1. Strongly Support 2. Somewhat Support 3. Somewhat Oppose 4. Strongly Oppose 5. Not sure
26. Regardless of whether you favor or oppose increasing some transportation taxes and fees, what do you think would be the top two benefits of increased funding for Washington's transportation system?
27. Over the next 20 years, our state will need to fund more than \$64 billion in state transportation needs. This amount does not include the long-term unfunded transportation needs of cities, counties and local transit agencies. Current transportation revenues are already dedicated to paying for existing projects so future transportation maintenance and improvements will require additional revenue. Knowing this, would you support or oppose increasing some transportation taxes and fees to fund unmet transportation needs?
1. Strongly Support 2. Somewhat Support 3. Somewhat Oppose 4. Strongly Oppose 5. Not sure

Below are some ways we could fund our unmet transportation needs. For each one, please indicate whether or not you think that method is a good way to fund increased investment in our transportation system.

Is this a good way to fund increased transportation investment?

(ALL ITEMS ARE PRESENTED AT ONCE IN RANDOM ORDER)

28. the gas tax
29. an annual license fee based on the value of the vehicle
30. a statewide property tax
31. electronically collected tolls
32. a vehicle emissions fee - vehicles that pollute more would pay a higher fee
33. a fee based on the fuel efficiency of a vehicle - less fuel efficient vehicles would pay a higher fee
34. a fee based on the number of miles driven - people who use the system more would pay a higher fee
35. adding the sales tax to gas purchases
36. a licensing fee on vehicles that are 100% electric and do not pay any gas tax
37. Transportation fees like vehicle licenses, permits and other fees are fixed amounts and do not change with inflation. This means that even as transportation costs increase, these fees stay flat creating funding challenges for key transportation programs like law enforcement, traffic safety and aviation. In general, would you support or oppose having these transportation fees rise with rate of inflation, so that they provide a more stable funding source?
1. Strongly Support 2. Somewhat Support 3. Somewhat Oppose 4. Strongly Oppose 5. Not sure

38. A combination of inflation, changing driving habits and increased fuel economy of vehicles means the state gas tax brings in less money each year. This creates a growing transportation funding shortfall. In general, would you support or oppose having the gas tax rise with the rate of inflation so that it provides a more stable funding source?

1. Strongly Support 2. Somewhat Support 3. Somewhat Oppose 4. Strongly Oppose 5. Not sure

There are a number of benefits that come from increased long term investments in our transportation system. For each of the following, please indicate how important that benefit is to you in terms of justifying additional taxes to fund new investments in our transportation system.

How important is this benefit to you? (STATEMENTS ARE PRESENTED TWO PER PAGE IN RANDOM ORDER)

39. **Creating jobs.** Transportation investment will boost local and regional economies and create jobs both directly in the construction industry and indirectly with the many businesses and service industries that rely on the transportation system to move their goods and products and deliver services.
40. **Reducing Congestion.** Investing in our transportation system will reduce congestion and allow us to spend less time sitting in traffic, benefiting people and businesses in our state.
41. **Boosting Trade.** Our state depends heavily on trade, from East to West, from agriculture to high tech. Washington's exports were more than \$50 billion in 2009. Investing in our transportation system will ensure that trade-dependent industries and jobs will stay in Washington.
42. **Year Round Roads.** Transportation investments will help improve the ability of rural and urban residents to get where they need to go at all times of the year.
43. **Expanding Transit.** Investing in public transit and passenger rail will give people more options to get around, help take cars off the road and reduce congestion for everyone.
44. **Preserving Infrastructure.** The longer we wait, the more we will end up paying because things that could have been repaired will have to be replaced. Investing now means we can extend the life of our roads, bridges, transit, and ferries and keep them safe.
45. What transportation changes or improvements would impact your life in a positive way?

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46. This survey has highlighted a number of different benefits of increased transportation funding. Given all of this, would you support or oppose **increasing some transportation taxes and fees to meet our transportation system's needs?**

1. Strongly Support 2. Somewhat Support 3. Somewhat Oppose 4. Strongly Oppose 5. Not sure

DEFINITION: These next questions are about **tolling**, that is, charging drivers a fee on some major highways and bridges in heavily congested areas. Tolls are collected electronically so that drivers do not have to stop at toll booths.

47. In general, do you support or oppose tolling as a way to help pay for major state transportation projects?
1. Strongly Support 2. Somewhat Support 3. Somewhat Oppose 4. Strongly Oppose 5. Not sure

[IF Q47="STRONGLY SUPPORT" SKIP Q48]

48. One argument for using tolls to help pay for major state projects is that those who use and benefit the most from a project pay a bigger share of the cost. That means that less money is required from the rest of the state. Knowing this, in general do you support or oppose tolling to help pay for major state transportation projects?
1. Strongly Support 2. Somewhat Support 3. Somewhat Oppose 4. Strongly Oppose 5. Not sure
49. Tolls that change based on traffic volumes or time of day and day of week are known as variable tolls. Variable tolls help reduce congestion by encouraging people to shift optional trips to less busy times of the day, thus reducing congestion during the busiest times of the day. The idea is similar to the way movie theaters charge less for matinees to get people to come to the theater at less busy times. In general, do you support or oppose the concept of variable tolling on major state roads in heavily congested areas?
1. Strongly Support 2. Somewhat Support 3. Somewhat Oppose 4. Strongly Oppose 5. Not sure
50. Express Toll Lanes, also referred to as High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes, allow people traveling alone to pay a toll to use the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes. The toll amount changes based on traffic flow so that the HOV lane doesn't slow down. In general, do you support or oppose Express Toll Lanes on major state roads in heavily congested areas?
1. Strongly Support 2. Somewhat Support 3. Somewhat Oppose 4. Strongly Oppose 5. Not sure
51. Which of the following statements is closest to your opinion: **[ROTATE STATEMENTS]**
1. Toll money should **only** be spent on the specific road or bridge where the toll is collected and not on any other transportation investments.
2. Toll money should be available to fund transportation improvements within a travel corridor – that is, on the roads and bridges that connect to where the toll is collected.
3. Not sure
52. Moving on to other issues. The state primarily provides funding for state highways, bridges, and the ferry system, as well as providing funding to cities and counties for transportation needs. Local jurisdictions and the federal government provide most of the funding for transit. Do you support or oppose providing more state funding for public transit and passenger rail?
1. Strongly Support 2. Somewhat Support 3. Somewhat Oppose 4. Strongly Oppose 5. Not sure

53. State gas tax revenues also help fund the Washington State Ferry system. Do you support or oppose using state transportation funds to help maintain and operate the Washington State Ferry system?

1. Strongly Support 2. Somewhat Support 3. Somewhat Oppose 4. Strongly Oppose 5. Not sure

[IF Q53="STRONGLY SUPPORT" SKIP Q54]

54. Washington State ferries carry 23 million passengers a year and are part of the state highway system just like bridges or highways. Ferry users pay about 70% of the ferry’s operational costs and state tax revenues provide the other 30%. The state also fully funds the capital needs of the ferry system, such as buying new boats and making ferry terminal improvements. Knowing this, do you support or oppose using state funds to help maintain and operate the Washington State Ferry system?

1. Strongly Support 2. Somewhat Support 3. Somewhat Oppose 4. Strongly Oppose 5. Not sure

RTPO SECTION

BENTON-FRANKLIN-WALLA WALLA (n=304; MoE=± 5.5%)

BFWW1. Which is a higher priority for you: (ROTATE TOP TWO RESPONSE POSITIONS)

1. Increasing the capacity of the State highway system
2. Improving the condition of local city streets and county roads
3. Not sure

BFWW2. If the only options to fund local transportation improvements were impact fees and local taxes, which would you prefer: (ROTATE TOP TWO RESPONSE POSITIONS)

1. Impact fees, that is fees on new residential and commercial developments
2. Local taxes
3. Both
4. Neither of the above
5. Not sure

NORTH CENTRAL RTPO (n=261; MoE=± 6.1%)

NCW1. Your region currently has a number of 2 lane highway connections to the interstate freeways. In your opinion, how much of a problem is not having any 4-lane highway connection to the Interstate system in your region?

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|--|----------|
| Not at all a problem | Very serious problem | | Not sure |
| 1 2 3 | 4 5 | | 6 |

NCW2. Given budget shortfalls, do you support or oppose implementing tolling to fund ongoing improvements, maintenance and snow removal on mountain passes?

1. Strongly Support 2. Somewhat Support 3. Somewhat Oppose 4. Strongly Oppose 5. Not sure

NORTHEAST WASHINGTON RTPO (n=275; MoE=± 5.9%)

NEW1. Your region currently has a number of 2 lane highway connections to the interstate freeways. In your opinion, how much of a problem is not having any 4-lane highway connection to the Interstate system in your region?

Not at all a problem		Very serious problem		Not sure
1	2	3		4
				6

PALOUSE RTPO (n=362; MoE=± 5.2%)

PALOUSE1. Which is a higher priority for you: (ROTATE TOP TWO RESPONSE POSITIONS)

1. Increasing the capacity of the State highway system
2. Improving the condition of local city streets and county roads
3. Not sure

PALOUSE2. Do you feel that load limits on regional roads - that is prohibiting heavy vehicles from using some roads - are having a negative impact on industry and tourism?

1. Definitely
2. Probably
3. Probably not
4. Definitely not
5. Not sure

PENINSULA RTPO (n=371; MoE=± 5.1%)

PENINSULA1. Do you support or oppose additional **local** taxes to pay for **local** transportation improvements?

1. Strongly Support
2. Somewhat Support
3. Somewhat Oppose
4. Strongly Oppose
5. Not sure

PENINSULA2. Do you support or oppose higher fares on Washington State Ferries to ensure that the ferry system is financially sound over the long term?

1. Strongly Support
2. Somewhat Support
3. Somewhat Oppose
4. Strongly Oppose
5. Not sure

PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL (n=1230; MoE=± 2.8%)

PSRC1. HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle) lanes reduce the number of cars on the road, which reduces congestion for everyone. Because of population growth, HOV lanes are becoming more congested. Do you support or oppose increasing the requirement to use HOV lanes from 2+ people to 3+ people per car?

1. Strongly Support
2. Somewhat Support
3. Somewhat Oppose
4. Strongly Oppose
5. Not sure

QUAD-COUNTY RTPO (n=275; MoE=± 5.9%)

QUADCO1. Do you support or oppose additional **local** taxes to pay for **local** transportation improvements?

1. Strongly Support
2. Somewhat Support
3. Somewhat Oppose
4. Strongly Oppose
5. Not sure

SKAGIT/ ISLAND RTPO (n=331; MoE=± 5.4%)

SKAGIT1. Do you support or oppose higher fares on Washington State Ferries to ensure that the ferry system is financially sound over the long term?

1. Strongly Support
2. Somewhat Support
3. Somewhat Oppose
4. Strongly Oppose
5. Not sure

SKAGIT2. Do you support or oppose increasing some **local** transportation taxes and fees to help pay for **local** alternatives to driving, like public transit, passenger rail, bike lanes, and sidewalks?

1. Strongly Support
2. Somewhat Support
3. Somewhat Oppose
4. Strongly Oppose
5. Not sure

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL (n=505; MoE=±4.4%)

SRTC1. Do you think regional aviation taxes should be: (ROTATE TOP TWO RESPONSE POSITIONS)

1. Used only to improve regional airports
2. Used for general transportation funding
3. Used for both
4. Not sure

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON RTPO (n=271; MoE=± 6.0%)

SWWA1. Trade is a critical part of Washington's economy. Do you support or oppose increasing some state transportation taxes or fees to modernize the marine, rail and highway networks that serve our ports?

1. Strongly Support
2. Somewhat Support
3. Somewhat Oppose
4. Strongly Oppose
5. Not sure

SWWA2. Do you support or oppose increasing some state transportation taxes or fees to pay for **local** transit service in rural Washington, in part to improve the mobility of elderly residents?

1. Strongly Support
2. Somewhat Support
3. Somewhat Oppose
4. Strongly Oppose
5. Not sure

THURSTON REGIONAL COUNCIL PLANNING (n=351; MoE=± 5.2%)

TRPC1. To address growing congestion during rush hour, do you support or oppose converting one lane on I-5 between Lacey and State Route 512 for HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle) or HOT (High Occupancy Toll) lane use until I-5 can be widened?

1. Strongly Support
2. Somewhat Support
3. Somewhat Oppose
4. Strongly Oppose
5. Not sure

TRPC2. Residents in Sound Transit's service area pay additional taxes for Sound Transit services. Do you support or oppose implementing an additional local sales tax and licensing fee to become part of the Sound Transit service area and extend regional bus and passenger rail services south to Thurston County?

1. Strongly Support
2. Somewhat Support
3. Somewhat Oppose
4. Strongly Oppose
5. Not sure

Demographics: These last few questions are for **statistical purposes only** and help us make sure we capture the opinions of a wide cross-section of Washington State residents. This entire survey is **confidential**. Your answers to these demographic questions help us make sure these results reflect the views off all residents.

55. Do you have a cell phone or not?
1. Yes
 2. No
56. **(ASK IF Q55 IS YES)** How much do you rely on your cell phone. Would you say you rely on your cell phone...
1. All the time – I/we do not have a landline for voice calls
 2. A great deal – its your primary phone
 3. Some – you use it occasionally
 4. Very little – you mostly have it for emergencies
57. **(ASK IF Q56 IS LESS THAN ALL THE TIME)** Do you have a landline that you use for voice calls?
1. Yes
 2. No
58. Please think about all the trips you make from home during a typical week such as going to work, running errands, or going to appointments. Approximately what percentage of those trips per week are done by:
1. Driving alone in your vehicle
 2. Carpooling or driving with someone else
 3. Riding public transit
 4. Riding a motorcycle
 5. Riding a bicycle or walking instead of driving or taking transit
 6. Travelling some other way
59. How many miles would you say you drive in an average year?
60. What is your gender?
1. Male
 2. Female
61. What year were you born? _____ (For example: 1962) (IF BLANK) Are you:
1. 18-34
 2. 35-54
 3. 55+
 4. Refused

The purpose of these next two questions is to allow us to compare to U.S. Census data so we can make sure this survey reflects our state's population accurately. Again, this entire survey is confidential.

62. Are you from a Hispanic, Latino or Spanish-speaking background?
1. Yes, Hispanic/Latino/Spanish speaking
 2. No
 3. Refused
63. What race would you classify yourself as:
1. Black/African-American
 2. White/Caucasian
 3. American Indian/Alaska Native
 4. Asian/Asian- American
 5. Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander
 6. Two or more races
 7. Some Other Race
 8. Refused
64. Are you registered to vote?
1. Yes
 2. No/Not sure
65. Would you describe the area you live in as:
1. Urban/City
 2. Suburban
 3. Rural/Town
 4. Not sure
66. In terms of your job status, are you employed, unemployed but looking for work, retired, a homemaker or a student?
1. Employed – full time
 2. Employed – part time
 3. Unemployed
 4. Retired
 5. Student
 6. Homemaker
 7. Other
 8. Refused

67. Again, to help us compare to Census data, please indicate which of the following is the best estimate of your 2010 household income before taxes?
1. Less than \$20,000
 2. \$20,000 to \$34,999
 3. \$35,000 to \$44,999
 4. \$45,000 to \$59,999
 5. \$60,000 to \$84,999
 6. \$85,000 to \$99,999
 7. \$100,000 to \$119,999
 8. \$120,000 or more
 9. Refused
68. Your participation in this survey is greatly appreciated by the WSTC, transportation policy makers and elected officials! You can make sure your voice is heard on other critical issues by a participating in future research conducted by the state. Would you be interested in participating so that your voice can be heard?
- Yes (IF SELECTED, NEW SCREEN WITH MESSAGE SAYING “Thank you, the survey is now complete! Your participation is greatly appreciated and will help the state work towards addressing long-term transportation needs in a way that reflects the priorities of residents across the state. You will now be taken to website that explains how to sign up for future research projects for the state. If you are not redirected, please click here: vows.micropanel.com” (TRANSFER TO: <http://www.voiceofwashingtonsurvey.org/>)
 - No (IF SELECTED, NEW SCREEN WITH MESSAGE SAYING “Thank you, the survey is now complete! Your participation is greatly appreciated and will help the state work towards addressing long-term transportation needs in a way that reflects the priorities of residents across the state. For additional information about the Washington State Transportation Commission, please visit www.wstc.wa.gov. You may now close this window. ” [DO NOT REDIRECT]