Timing and sample

- Conducted November 16-22, 2010
- 1,000 voters nationwide
  - 37% Democrat
  - 34% Republican
  - 29% Independent
- Voting Patterns:
  - 27% vote Democrat most of the time
  - 23% vote Republican most of the time
  - 50% swing voters
Survey objectives

• Identify priorities for state transportation spending.
• Assess the urgency of investing in transportation in the current economic climate.
Maintenance and repair are the top priority for state transportation funding

Q. Which one of these should be the top priority for state transportation funding?

- Maintaining and repairing roads, highways, freeways, and bridges
  - All voters: 51%
  - Democrats: 45%
  - Republicans: 56%
  - Swing voters: 52%

- Expanding/improving bus, rail, van service, biking, walking, transportation choices
  - All voters: 33%
  - Democrats: 42%
  - Republicans: 22%
  - Swing voters: 32%

- Expanding and building new roads, highways, freeways, and bridges
  - All voters: 16%
  - Democrats: 13%
  - Republicans: 22%
  - Swing voters: 16%

Smart Growth America
Making Neighborhoods Great Together
Priorities for transportation funding align with perceived value for the cost

Percentage of voters who believe each would be a good value for the cost

- **Repair/maintain existing roads/bridges**
  - All voters: 76%, 78%, 78%, 74%
  - Democrats: 78%, 78%, 78%, 74%
  - Republicans: 76%, 78%, 78%, 74%
  - Swing voters: 47%, 66%, 45%, 54%

- **More choices: bus, carpool, light rail, van, commuter rail**
  - All voters: 64%, 78%, 47%, 66%
  - Democrats: 78%, 78%, 47%, 66%
  - Republicans: 64%, 78%, 47%, 66%
  - Swing voters: 47%, 66%, 45%, 54%

- **Expand biking/walking opportunities**
  - All voters: 45%, 54%, 37%, 46%
  - Democrats: 54%, 54%, 37%, 46%
  - Republicans: 45%, 54%, 37%, 46%
  - Swing voters: 37%, 46%, 37%, 46%

- **Build new roads and bridges**
  - All voters: 37%, 36%, 44%, 38%
  - Democrats: 36%, 36%, 44%, 38%
  - Republicans: 37%, 36%, 44%, 38%
  - Swing voters: 37%, 36%, 44%, 38%
Regardless of party, majority of voters agree with both arguments for repair and maintenance

Percentage of voters who believe each very/fairly closely reflects their view

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All voters</th>
<th>Democrats</th>
<th>Republicans</th>
<th>Swing voters</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We can’t afford to spend more government money on transportation. Instead of writing blank checks for new roads/other projects, we need to be fiscally responsible, repair infrastructure we have, and invest what’s left on projects with high return.</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Our government has obligation to the people in this state to create jobs and implement policies to strengthen the economy, protect the environment, ensure opportunity for all. On transportation, we don’t need to build more, we need to fix what we have and give citizens low-cost choices that protect environment and economy at same time.</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Safety first” is the top argument for why rebuilding roads/bridges is a good value

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Argument</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It’s our duty to make sure roads and bridges are safe, but right now many are not.</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To attract new business we must ensure business districts and shopping areas are welcoming and accessible.</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our money will be spent more wisely—and it will cost less—if we fix what we already have before building new roads and bridges.</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More jobs are created by repairing existing roads and bridges than building new ones.</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of all voters rating each as a very convincing argument (defined as 8-10 on a 0-10 scale)

58% of swing voters rate “attracting businesses” as the best reason to repair roads.
Regardless of party, most agree that now is the time to invest in transportation

Views of state investing in transportation

- **Now is the time** for state government to invest in transportation, because if we do it right, these investments will create jobs and attract new business.

- **Now is not the time** for state government to invest in transportation, because budgets are too tight, and in this bad economy, there are more important needs the state should address.
Smart Growth America is the only national organization dedicated to researching, advocating for and leading coalitions to bring smart growth practices to more communities nationwide.

www.smartgrowthamerica.org

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