



Smart Growth America Nationwide Survey

Strategic findings from survey among 1,000 voters nationwide
Conducted November 16 – 22, 2010

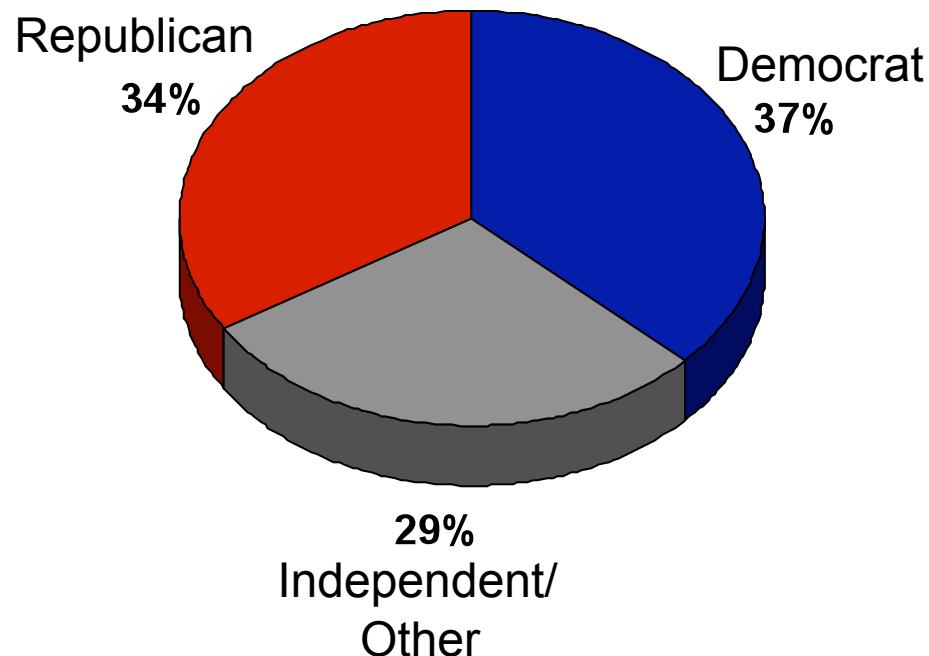


Objectives

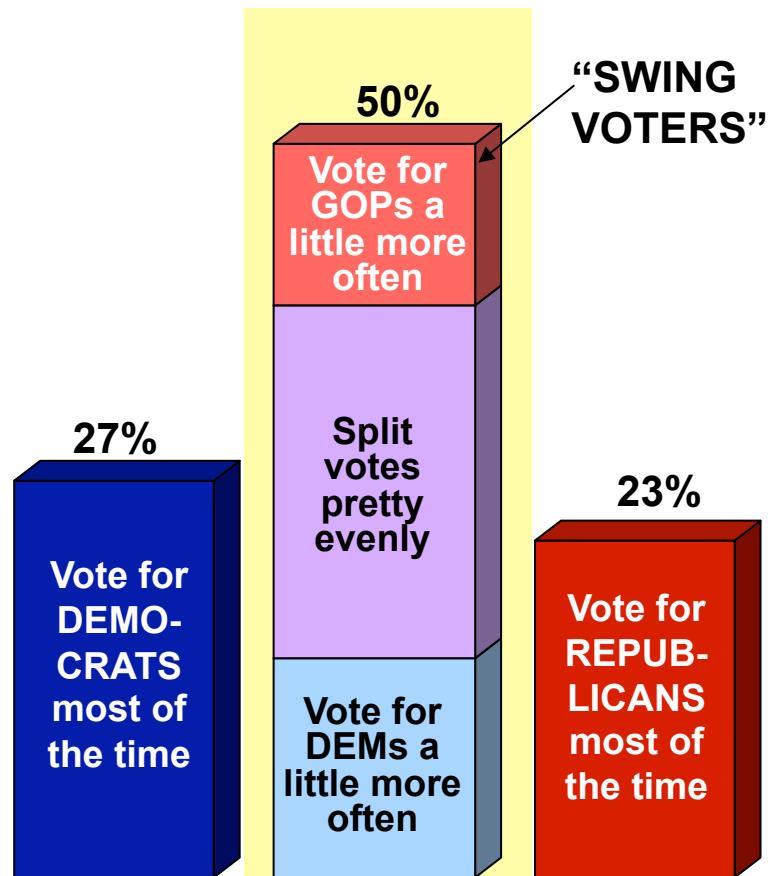
- ◆ Identify priorities for state transportation spending.
- ◆ Test messages around roads, bridges, and transportation choices.
- ◆ Assess the urgency of investing in transportation in the current economic climate.

Key subgroups of the electorate:

Political Self-Identification



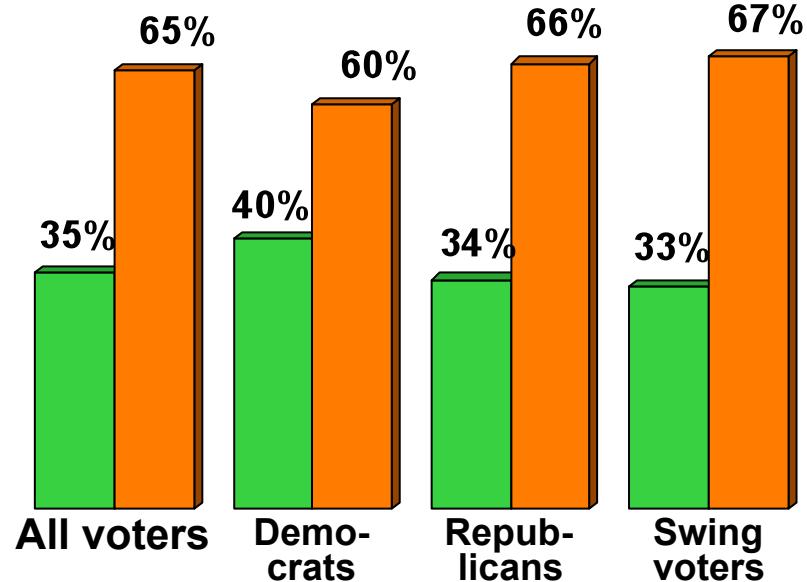
Self-described Voting Pattern



Voters are pessimistic about the direction and economic conditions of their state.

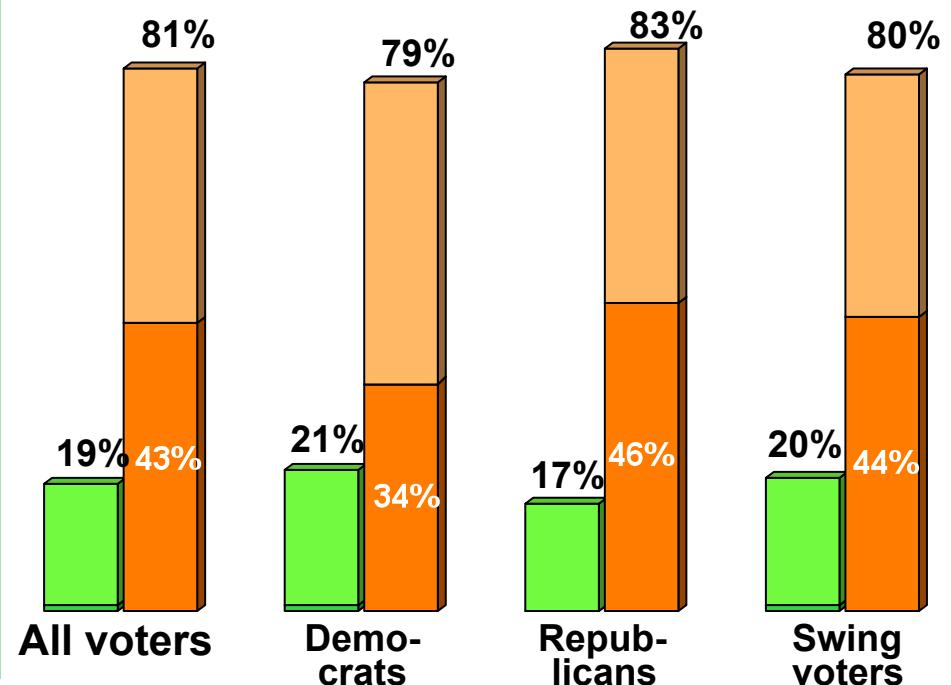
Overall Direction of the State

■ Right direction ■ Wrong track



State Economic Conditions

■ Very satisfied ■ Somewhat satisfied
■ Very dissatisfied ■ Somewhat dissatisfied



Maintenance and repair is the top priority for state transportation funding.

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

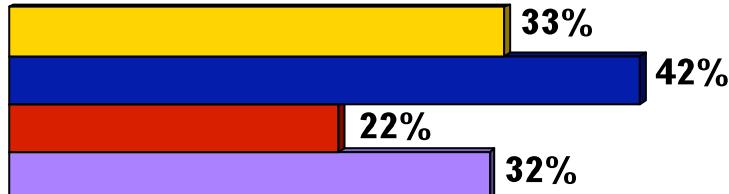
■ All voters ■ Democrats ■ Republicans ■ Swing voters

Maintaining and repairing roads, highways, freeways, and bridges



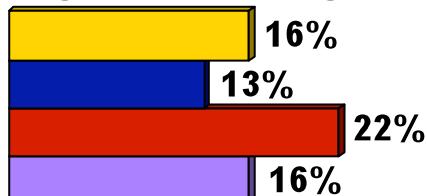
Small town/rural 64%
Northeast 61%
Age 65+ 61%

Expanding/improving bus, rail, van service, biking, walking, transportation choices



Hispanic 45%
Under age 35 42%
Postgrad 42%

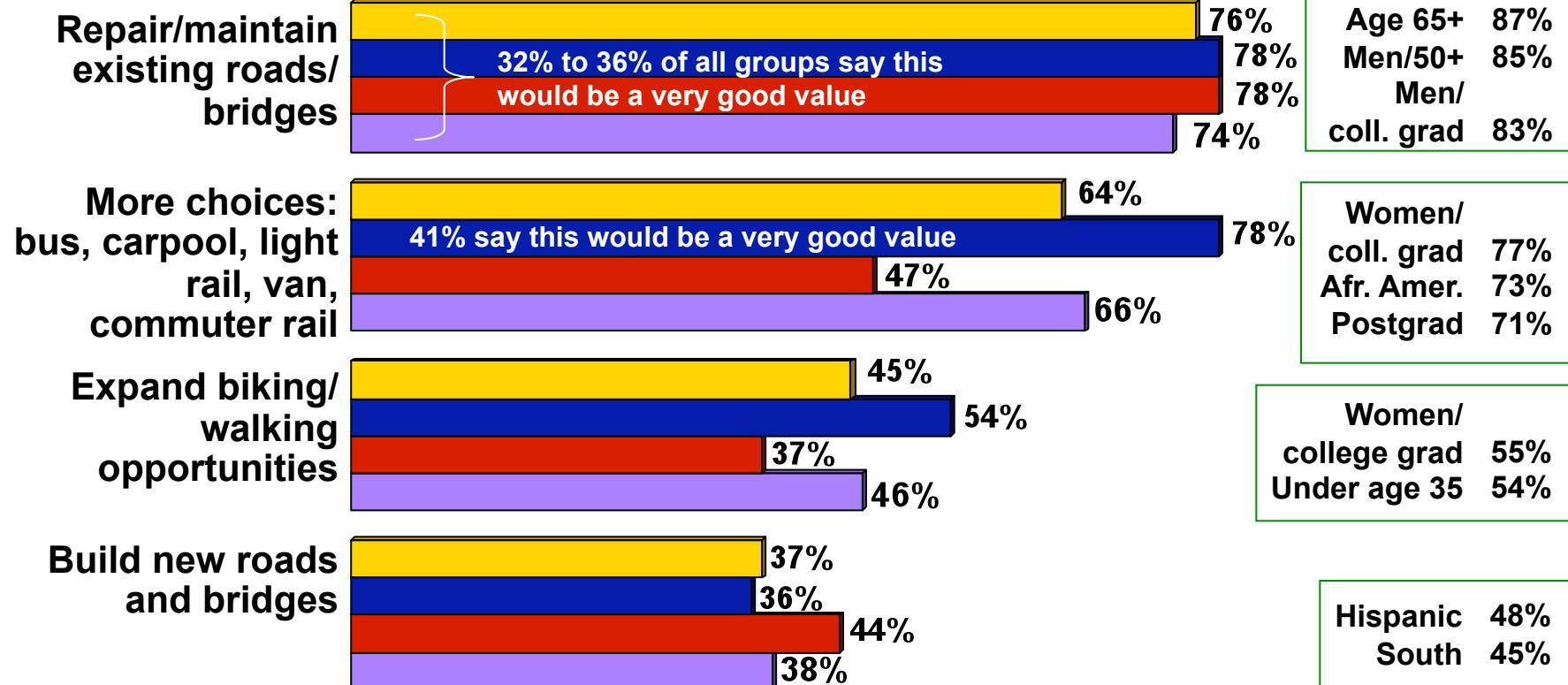
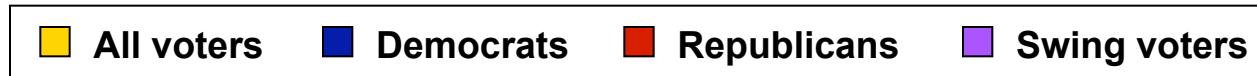
Expanding and building new roads, highways, freeways, and bridges



Hispanic 25%
South 23%

Priorities for transportation funding align with perceived value for the cost.

% saying each would be a good value for the cost

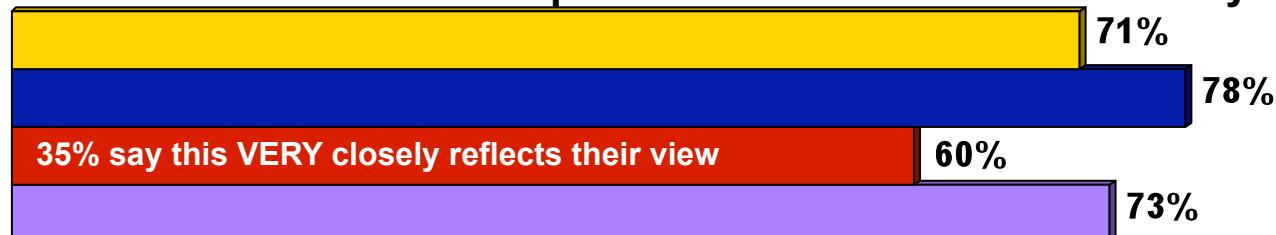


Regardless of party, majorities of voters agree with both arguments for fix-it-first.

% saying each very/fairly closely reflects their view

All voters Democrats Republicans Swing voters

Our gov't 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.



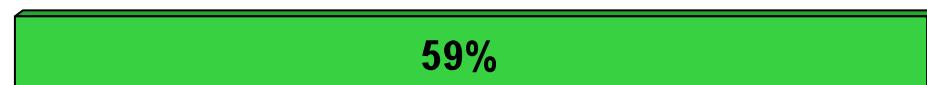
We **can't afford to spend more gov't money** on transportation. Instead of writing blank checks for new roads/other projects, we **need to be fiscally responsible, repair infrastructure** we have, and **invest what's left** on projects with high return.



“Safety first” is the top argument that rebuilding roads/bridges is a good value.

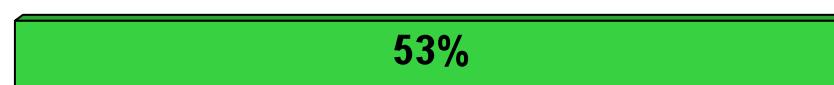
% all voters rating each as a very convincing argument (8-10 on zero-to-10 scale)

Our duty to make sure roads/bridges are safe; right now many are not



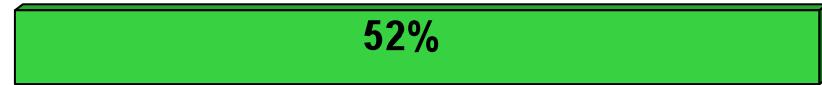
Age 65+ 72%
Midwest 69%

To attract business we must ensure business/shopping accessible



Age 65+ 67%

Cost less if we fix what we already have



Age 65+ 66%

Repairing existing roads/bridges creates more jobs than building new



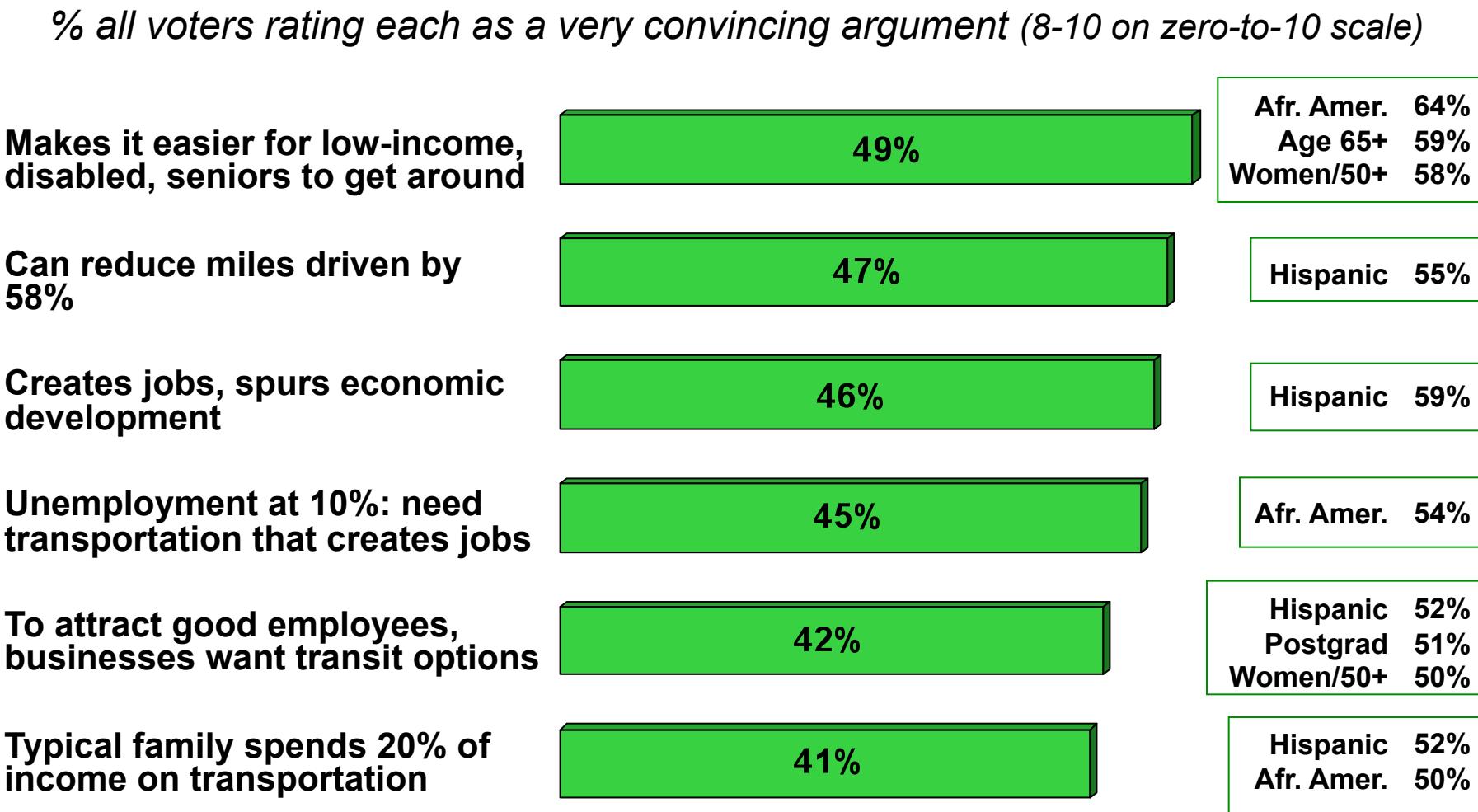
HS or less 54%
Afr. Amer. 52%
Midwest 52%
Age 65+ 50%

Arguments for rebuilding roads/bridges score about equally across parties.

% rating each as a very convincing argument (8-10 on zero-to-10 scale)

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Swing Voters</u>
Our duty to make sure roads/ bridges are safe: right now many are not	57%	57%	61%
To attract business we must ensure business/ shopping accessible	50%	53%	58%
Cost less if we fix what we already have	52%	50%	52%
Repairing existing roads/ bridges creates more jobs than building new	45%	40%	50%

There is no single winning argument for bus, carpool, and rail offering good value.



There are major partisan divides, however, with Democrats the most convinced.

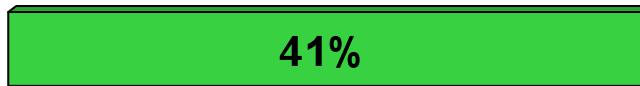
% rating each as a very convincing argument (8-10 on zero-to-10 scale)

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Swing Voters</u>
Makes it easier for low-income, disabled, seniors to get around	56%	39%	50%
Can reduce miles driven by 58%	56%	34%	47%
Creates jobs, spurs economic development	54%	36%	48%
Unemployment at 10%, need transportation that creates jobs	53%	33%	46%
To attract good employees, businesses want transit options	48%	35%	40%
Typical family spends 20% of income on transportation	48%	31%	42%

Arguments for biking/walking opportunities as good value are not convincing overall.

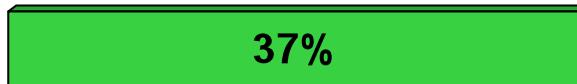
% all voters rating each as a very convincing argument (8-10 on zero-to-10 scale)

Would help Americans stay active and healthy



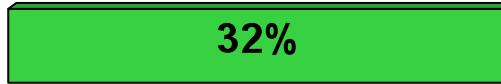
<\$35K	51%
Afr. Amer.	50%
Under age 35	49%

Would make our air cleaner, neighborhoods more livable



Hispanic	50%
<\$35K	46%

Attract businesses: employees want to live in these types of communities



Hispanic	43%
<\$35K	43%

Most trips are less than 3 miles: would reduce the number of cars on the road for short trips



<\$35K	39%
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Republicans are far less convinced than Democrats by biking/walking arguments.

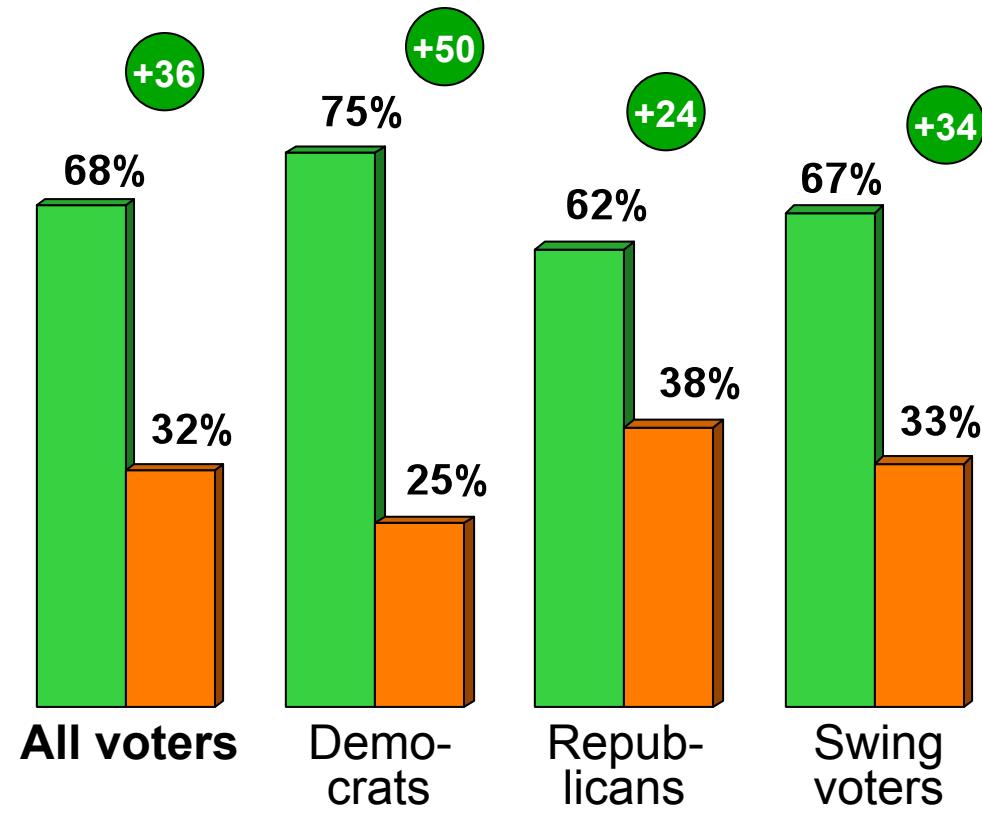
% rating each as a very convincing argument (8-10 on zero-to-10 scale)

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Swing Voters</u>
Would help Americans stay active and healthy	44%	34%	40%
Would make our air cleaner, neighborhoods more livable	40%	31%	38%
Attract businesses; employees want to live in these types of communities	33%	26%	33%
Most trips are less than 3 miles; would reduce the number of cars on the road for short trips	31%	23%	31%

Regardless of party, most agree that now is the time to invest in transportation.

View 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.



Appendix

Full Text of Arguments for Types of
Transportation Spending

Arguments That Rebuilding Roads And Bridges Is A Good Value

We have a **duty to make sure that our roads and bridges are safe and reliable**, and right now **a lot of them are not**. With a limited budget, we should use our state's transportation dollars to repair our existing roads, bridges, and transit to make them safe, before spending money on new facilities.

If we want to **attract new businesses and jump-start the economy** in our state, we must ensure that our **business districts and shopping communities are welcoming and accessible**. This means fixing the roads and bridges that are crumbling around them.

Billions of tax dollars have been spent on transportation, but roads are falling apart and bridges are crumbling. 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.

We need to take every opportunity to strengthen our economy and ensure that our tax dollars are well spent. When it comes to transportation, **repairing our existing roads and bridges creates more jobs than building new roads and bridges does**.

Arguments That Buses, Carpools, Light Rail, Commuter Rail Are Good Values

Public transportation **allows low-wage workers, seniors, and the disabled the opportunity to get where they need to go**. Whether it's going to work, going to the grocery store, or visiting friends and family, transit options such as buses, carpools, light rail, and commuter rail make it easier for them to get around.

Investing in transit options can **reduce the number of miles driven** in a community **by as much as 58%**. If we reduce the number of miles we drive, we'll also reduce our dependence on oil.

Expanding and improving our transportation options can serve as a boost to our economy because it will not only **create new jobs to build and run the system, but will spur economic development** around rail stops, transportation centers, and bus lines.

With the **unemployment rate at almost 10%, we need to invest in transportation strategies that will create more jobs**. For every \$1 billion invested in bus, light rail, and commuter rail transit, 19,000 jobs are created. The same amount of money spent on new roads creates only half that number, less than 10,000 jobs.

To attract high-quality employees, businesses prefer to locate in areas where there are practical and convenient transit options, such as buses, carpools, light rail, and commuter rail. Investing in a high-quality transit system will draw new businesses to our state, making us better able to compete.

The typical American family spends 20% of their household income on transportation, second only to housing and more than both health care and education. Expanding and improving our transit options will help families save money by providing alternatives so they can use their cars less and spend less on insurance and maintenance.

Arguments That Expanding Biking/ Walking Opportunities Is A Good Value

A better network of roads and trails that are safe for walking and biking would **help Americans stay active** and healthy. Kids could walk or bike to school, families and workers would have better transportation options, and those who choose to walk or bike can be healthier.

One way to **make our air cleaner and our neighborhoods more livable** is to create more opportunities for people to bike and walk. This translates into healthier, more breathable air for our kids and families.

Livable communities give people more opportunities to bike and walk to get where they need to go. By providing more active transportation—like bike lanes and sidewalks—we will **attract businesses because these are the types of communities in which employees want to live**.

Most trips that people take are less than three miles in length. Safe and attractive biking and walking choices would **reduce the number of cars on the road for short trips**.