

January 16, 2009

Poll: Most Americans Want Stimulus to Emphasize Road and Bridge Repair and Transit, Not New Road Construction, Poll Finds

Majority says funded projects should advance national goals, such as energy independence, in addition to creating jobs.

WASHINGTON – As Congress takes up debate over an economic stimulus package, a new poll shows that most Americans would rather use federal dollars to repair highways and bridges and improve public transportation than expand highways through new construction.

In addition, fully 80 percent of respondents said stimulus investments should not only create jobs, but also help the goals of reducing oil dependency, improving the environment and increasing transportation options, even if the job creation took longer. Only 20 percent agreed that stimulus funds should include only “road and bridge projects that can be started right away and create an immediate boost to the economy”.

The stimulus questions were included in the 2009 Growth and Transportation Survey sponsored by the National Association of Realtors® and Transportation For America, and conducted Jan 5-7.

An overwhelming 80 percent believe it is more important that a stimulus plan include efforts to repair existing highways and public transit rather than build new highways. Forty-five percent of those polled said construction of highways should “definitely” or “probably” not be included in the plan.

“Realtors® build communities and believe smarter transportation and infrastructure development will help create more livable and vibrant neighborhoods,” said NAR President Charles McMillan, a broker with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Dallas-Fort Worth.

The survey shows that Americans want Congress and the incoming administration to factor plans for reducing dependence on foreign oil, improving the environment, and increasing transportation choices into the stimulus package currently in development, even if it temporarily delays job creation.

Americans are also very interested in energy conservation. Eighty-nine percent agreed that transportation investments should support the goals of reducing energy use, with 58 percent agreeing strongly. Three in four of those polled also want the stimulus plan to support the reduction of carbon emissions that lead to global warming and climate change.

The telephone survey of 1,005 adults living in the U.S. was conducted by Hart Research Associates Jan. 5-7. The study has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

Transportation for America (T4America.org) is a big-tent coalition of housing, real estate, environmental, public health, urban planning, transportation and other organizations.

“We believe it is possible to invest the stimulus money both wisely and quickly,” said Geoff Anderson, co-chair of Transportation for America. “Because this is a down-payment on long term economic stability, it is critical that we don’t just throw money at our problems. Voters are clearly asking that Congress and the Administration line up our investments with important national goals.”

The National Association of Realtors®, “The Voice for Real Estate,” is America’s largest trade association, representing 1.2 million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries.

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Information about NAR is available at www.REALTOR.org. This and other news releases are posted in the Web site’s “News Media” section in the NAR Media Center.

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2 Responses to “Poll: Most Americans Want Stimulus to Emphasize Road and Bridge Repair and Transit, Not New Road Construction, Poll Finds”

1. [Streetsblog » Stimulus Draft, the Day After](#) on January 16th, 2009 8:07 pm

[...] they’ve got some fresh public opinion research to back up their [...]

2. Jacques and Abi on January 16th, 2009 10:27 pm

I have been watching with great concern the collapse of the American Economy and especially the Auto industry. I am NOT a big car fan, nor a promoter of reckless business practice, both of which the auto manufacturers represent. But I am against job loss

I want to see our economy revitalized, BUT I want to see it done where the PEOPLE benefit, not corporate CEO’s. I have an idea that would jump start and help PEOPLE; Revitalize MANY companies. Stimulate State budgets and economies. Get the Economy moving on a GREEN track
Start by revitalizing the “;car companies”; BUT get them into making public

transit FIRST and cars SECOND. Also get STEEL and CONSTRUCTION back to work with this same objective. Provide the;\$350 billion funding to retool the car factories and also to inject funds into associated industries and trades for TRANSIT, which I will outline

But First, get the STATES the budget moneys they need, don't focus on failed mortgages. . Those home buyers made their bets and lost. Responsible homebuyers aren't getting a break. Dump the bank saving plan, it's not working. Re-tool the car companies to make TRANSIT BUSES, STREET CARS, HIGH SPEED TRAINS. A small portion for high mileage PRACTICAL CARS. Get these vehicles into production, simultaneously, take from the 700 billion dollars and direct it to STATES to cancel their DEFICITS. This money would go toward TRANSIT PROJECTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE. Funnel some of the money to STEEL works. Get them to making RAILS, BRIDGE COMPONENTS,, TRAIN STATION COMPONENTS AND OTHER TRANSIT and infrastructure projects. WPA time

The states would use some of their Federal moneys to build the transit projects: buy buses, streetcars, light rail and, in cases,high speed train lines as well. The moneys could be used to employ concrete workers, steel workers, building workers and all aspects of construction from rail lines, and structures to buildings, bus stops and landscapingThese multi-facet projects would get a broad spectrum of trades and skills from Architects, to Bridge Designers, Geologists and Engineers, office support staff, other construction trades and, as I mentioned, even landscaping companies to work. These projects would get people WORKING right away. It would pull states out of debt, and kick-start their economies. But the main thing also is it would get AFFORDABLE TRANSIT; to the PEOPLE who could use it and depend less on CARS, thus cutting carbon impacts and reducing global warming. I hope you will consider these ideas and we can get America, not only revitalized but moving CARBON FREE.