

Washington Policy Center Traffic Congestion Poll

**WASHINGTON VOTERS (N=500 + 140 OVERSAMPLE IN KING/PIERCE/SNOHOMISH)
 December 1-2, 2007**

As you may know, there was a measure on the ballot earlier this month called Proposition One, Regional Roads and Transit System, also known as the Roads and Transit Measure.

Did you vote for or against Proposition One?

IF DID NOT VOTE: Regardless of whether or not you were able to vote, were you for or against Proposition One?

	King/Pierce/ Snohomish voters
for	30%
don't remember/wouldn't say/don't know	29%
against	41%

Would you have voted for or against Prop One if you were convinced that it would have reduced congestion?

for	44%
don't know	8%
against	48%

In 1996, Sound Transit said they would roll back Sound Move taxes, the first phase of Sound Transit, if a second phase extension was rejected by voters. Prop One included this second phase extension and voters rejected it. Do you think Sound Transit should continue with their current tax rates, or reduce tax rates as they promised?

continue with current tax rates	30%
don't know	20%
reduce tax rates	50%

When spending your transportation tax dollars, do you think state government's first priority should be to reduce traffic congestion, or to fund other transportation needs? Do you feel strongly about that?

	<u>All voters</u>
strongly reduce traffic congestion	28%
reduce traffic congestion	23%
Total reduce traffic congestion	51%
don't know	11%
Total fund other transportation needs	38%
fund other transportation needs	17%
strongly fund other transportation needs	21%

As you think about the government's role in transportation, how important to you personally is reducing traffic congestion?

extremely important	32%
fairly important	38%
Total extremely/very important	70%
Total somewhat/not at all important	29%
only somewhat important	23%
not important at all	6%
don't know	1%

How would you rate state government's performance on relieving traffic congestion?

excellent	1%
good	24%
Total excellent/good	25%
Total not so good/poor	69%
not so good	40%
poor	29%
don't know	5%

Would you vote for or against a major tax increase if you were convinced the plan would actually reduce traffic congestion in your area? IF FOR/AGAINST: Is that definitely for/against or probably for/against?

definitely for	22%
probably for	32%
Total for	54%
don't know	9%
Total against	37%
probably against	16%
definitely against	21%

Which one of the following tax increases, if any, would you be most likely to support if you were convinced the tax increase would actually reduce traffic congestion?

tolls	27%
gas tax	16%
automobile sales tax	16%
vehicle license fees	13%
sales tax	9%
none	12%
don't know	6%

As you may know, state law requires that gas tax revenues must be used for road and highway projects. Which one of the following uses of bridge and highway tolls do you prefer?

	<u>All voters</u>
use tolls only for road and highway projects	81%
place toll revenues in the state's General Fund to be used for anything approved by the legislature	13%
neither	2%
don't know	4%

If state government were to charge tolls, would you favor charges on existing roadways or on new roadways only?

existing roadways	32%
don't know	11%
new roads only	57%

Here are two views on state government's role in transportation.

Mr. Smith believes state government should try to get people out of their cars and that we need to focus tax dollars on public transportation, not building more highways. He says trying to fix traffic congestion with road improvements will result in more people driving more cars, more damage to the environment and more congestion.

OR

Mr. Jones believes state government should focus on fixing traffic congestion chokepoints. Congestion relief will help commuters get to work, help businesses move their products and help the environment because shorter commutes mean less air pollution.

Do you agree more with Mr. Smith or Mr. Jones? WAIT AND ASK: Do you feel strongly about that?

strongly Mr. Smith/focus on public transportation	26%
Mr. Smith/focus on public transportation	13%
Total Mr. Smith	39%
don't know	13%
Total Mr. Jones	49%
Mr. Jones/focus on traffic relief	27%
strongly Mr. Jones/focus on traffic relief	22%

On another subject, in order to place more money into projects that relieve traffic congestion, would you support or oppose reduced spending in other areas of the state's General Fund? IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE: Do you feel strongly about that?

	<u>All voters</u>
strongly support	21%
support	25%
Total support	46%
don't know	17%
Total oppose	38%
oppose	22%
strongly oppose	16%