

To Toll or Not To Toll: What Do Californians Think?

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Presentation Outline

1. Public support for toll roads vs. “traditional” transportation taxes & fees
2. Public support for toll roads vs. “green” transportation taxes & fees
3. Conclusions

Transportation Financing Opportunities for CA

- Evaluated tolls, taxes/fees, PPPs
- Applied 5 evaluation criteria, including political feasibility
- Surveys in 2006
 - Survey 1: Tolling, taxes, fees
 - Survey 2: Tolling and PPPs

Tolling: Overall Support Levels

Toll Option	Support Level
Truck-only toll lanes (S2)	64%
HOT lanes (S1)	55
Toll roads (S2)	47
Express toll lanes (S2)	44
Tolls on new highway lanes (S1)	40

Tolling: Women More Supportive

	Men	Women
Toll roads	43%	50%
HOT lanes	52%	57%
Truck-only toll lanes	60%	69%

All differences significant, $p < 0.05$

Tolling: Young More Supportive

	18-34	35-54	55+
Express toll lanes	54%	44%	37%
Toll roads	53%	45%	44%
HOT lanes	64%	57%	49%
Truck-only toll lanes	75%	62%	60%

Tolling: Prior Experience Matters

- Los Angeles and Southern California more positive on most toll facilities

Tolling: Race, Ethnicity, & Income

- No consistent patterns of support by any group

Tax/Fee/Toll Option	Support Level
Truck-only toll lanes (S2)	64%
HOT lanes (S1)	55
Toll roads (S2)	47
Express toll lanes (S2)	44
Tolls on new highway lanes (S1)	40
Gas tax increase of 10¢ (S1)	40
State-wide sales tax of ½ ¢ (S1)	40
VLF fee to 1% (S1)	40
Vehicle registration fee to \$62/yr (S1)	32

Tolling: Summary

1. Relatively popular, compared to traditional finance options
2. Stronger support from:
 - Women & younger people
 - Regions with existing toll roads
3. Very little variation in support by:
 - Income
 - Race/ethnicity

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Study 2: Survey of “Green” Transportation Taxes & Fees

- 1,500 Californians
- January 2008

Tax/Fee/Toll Option	Support Level
Feebate proposal (S3)	65%
Truck-only toll lanes (S2)	64
Green vehicle reg'n fee to ~ \$62 (S3)	63
HOT lanes (S1)	55
Green mileage fee (S3)	50
Toll roads (S2)	47
Express toll lanes (S2)	44
Tolls on new highway lanes (S1)	40

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1. Public support for toll roads vs. “traditional” transportation taxes & fees
2. Public opinion for toll roads vs. “green” transportation taxes & fees
3. Conclusions

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2. Support for tolling by population groups:
 - Experience, gender, & age matter
 - Race, ethnicity, and income don't matter

Conclusions

1. Reasonable support for tolling compared to traditional transportation taxes & fees
2. Support for tolling by population groups:
 - Experience, gender, & age matter
 - Race, ethnicity, and income don't matter
3. “Greening” transportation finance options boosts support markedly

Want to learn more?

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Read survey findings at:

<http://transweb.sjsu.edu/>

