

# 2024 America THINKS Survey

## Exploring Innovative Funding Solutions for U.S. Transportation

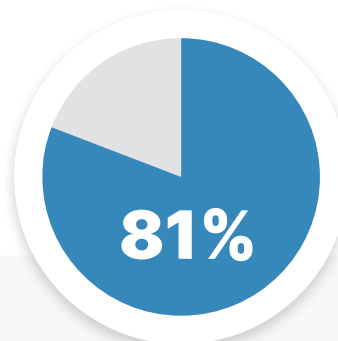
Advancements in the fuel efficiency of vehicles are leading to a diminishing return on investment of federal and state fuel taxes to maintain and improve roads in the United States. New insights from the American public show a readiness to adopt alternative funding strategies for transportation.

According to a new HNTB Corporation America THINKS national public opinion survey, "Funding America's Roads – 2024"



**A Vast Majority Of Americans Support Alternative Funding Mechanisms for Road Maintenance and Improvements.**

**81% of Americans are open to new ways of paying for road maintenance.**

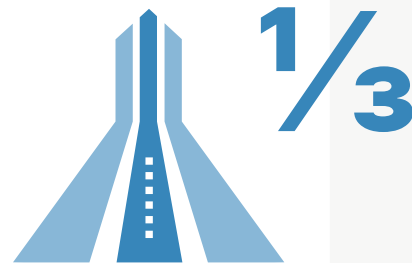


## ALTERNATIVE FUNDING

With this willingness to explore alternative funding options, there is an opportunity to fill an information gap so those that drive roads in the U.S. have a better understanding of how they are currently funded.



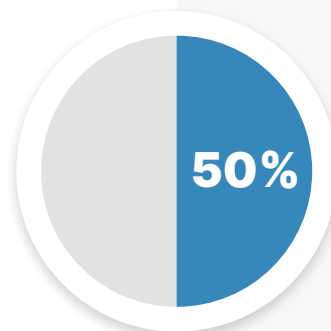
**Less than one-third** of Americans surveyed attributed fuel taxes as the current primary source to fund road maintenance and improvements.



However, there is a general understanding that allocating more funds to road infrastructure is critical to support safer, faster commutes and decrease wear and tear on individual vehicles.



**Half of those surveyed** say there is not enough current investment in road infrastructure in the U.S.



**“We stand at a unique crossroads in the history of transportation** in the United States due to higher-efficiency vehicles and broader adoption of vehicles that utilize alternative forms of energy. The needs related to maintaining and improving systems to ensure safe and efficient travel have never been more evident. It is imperative that the transportation industry collaborate with local and national leaders to find the right path forward in terms of the options that create funding models that are dependable and sustainable for the long-term.”

**Kary Witt**

National Toll and Road Use  
Charge Practice Leader



## PUBLIC AWARENESS

However, increasing public awareness and understanding of alternative funding methods is crucial. Awareness of alternative funding methods for transportation among the American public is minimal with most people not being familiar with the various innovative approaches that can be used to finance transportation infrastructure.



**Fewer than one-third** of Americans surveyed had heard of road usage charging.

**1/3**



**Less than one in five Americans** were aware of other alternative methods such as retail delivery fees, high fuel economy registration premiums or kilowatt hour fees for electric vehicles.



**1 in 5**

Increasing awareness and understanding of alternative funding methods presents an opportunity to build public support to ensure the long-term sustainability of the nation's transportation systems.



**↑ 60%**

**Over 60 percent of those polled indicated** they believe the fairest way to fund road maintenance and improvements should be based on the number of miles driven or the type of vehicle they drive.



**↑ 51%**

**Of that group, a slightly higher percentage (51%) preferred** a funding model based on the number of miles driven, versus funding based on vehicle type (45%).

## ABOUT AMERICA THINKS

HNTB's America THINKS survey, Funding America's Roads – 2024, polled a random nationwide sample of 1,000 Americans, ages 18 and older, between July 25 and July 27, 2024. It was conducted by Material. Quotas were set to ensure reliable representation of the entire U.S. population ages 18 and over. The margin of error is +/- 3.1%.

HNTB's America THINKS seeks to understand the priorities and opportunities that the American public sees on issues critical to transportation infrastructure and mobility through public opinion polling. The insights gained from the public help to guide and advance important conversations with transportation professionals, elected and appointed officials and stakeholders in local communities.

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## ABOUT HNTB

HNTB Corporation is an employee-owned infrastructure firm serving public and private owners and contractors. With 110 years of service, HNTB understands the life cycle of infrastructure and addresses clients' most complex technical, financial and operational challenges. Professionals deliver a full range of infrastructure-related services, including award-winning planning, design, and program and construction management. For more information, visit [www.hntb.com](http://www.hntb.com), or follow HNTB on LinkedIn, X, Facebook or Instagram.

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