TOLLS CAN PAVE THE WAY TO NEEDED INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING
More Americans prefer transportation tolls than taxes, other funding options

Having previously examined transportation funding issues, HNTB Corporation’s latest America THINKS survey takes a closer look at a revenue source most popular before the advent of the gas tax: tolls. The findings show most Americans support tolls on roads and bridges to generate transportation revenue, especially when it saves them drive time. When it comes to construction, they prefer a focus on fixing existing infrastructure rather than new facilities.

TOLLS WORK FOR AMERICANS
A strong majority of Americans (84 percent) feel tolls should be considered in either project-by-project situations or as a primary source of revenue.

Q. Which of the following describes how you feel about tolls on roads and bridges?

52% Tolls should be considered only in special, project-by-project situations
33% Tolls, as a direct user fee, should be a primary source of transportation revenue
16% Tolls should never be used

TAXES, TOLLS OR NO NEW ROADS
When given a choice, eight in 10 Americans prefer tolls (41 percent) or no new roads at all (41 percent) over increased gas taxes (18 percent).

Q. If you had to select one, which of the following would you prefer?

MORE AMERICANS PREFER TOLLS
Nearly four in 10 would be willing to spend more money on tolls to put toward long-term transportation improvements, more than other likely funding options.

Q. Which of the following would you be willing to spend more money on if the money was put toward long-term transportation improvements, such as expanding highway capacity to reduce congestion or introducing high-speed rail, in your area? Please choose all that apply.

39% Tolls on roads and bridges
29% Public transportation fares
23% Vehicle registration fares
20% Sales tax
18% Gas tax
11% Income tax
9% Property tax
7% Other
24% Nothing

Tell us what you THINK: www.hntb.com/think
TOLLS MEAN REVENUE
Nearly half of Americans say a toll facility’s most important purpose is to provide funds for transportation infrastructure.

Q. Which of the following is the most important purpose of a toll facility? Please think of a “toll facility” as all of the infrastructure associated with a road, bridge or tunnel where drivers pay a fee for its use.

- 47% Generate transportation revenue
- 25% Reduce congestion
- 13% Provide a higher level of customer service than non-tolled roads, bridges and tunnels
- 12% Ensure reliable travel times
- 3% Other

TIME SAVINGS RAISES TOLLING’S APPEAL
More than six in 10 Americans would be willing to pay a higher toll fare if it saves them time.

Q. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement: I would be willing to pay a higher toll fare if it saved me travel time.

- 52% Somewhat agree
- 17% Somewhat disagree
- 15% Strongly agree
- 16% Strongly disagree
- 17% Disagree

HIGH TECH VERSUS TRADITIONAL TOLLS
Modern technology allows drivers to pay tolls without stopping or using cash, although most Americans (57 percent) prefer to have the choice of paying cash or electronically.

Q. All-electronic tolling systems allow drivers to pay for tolls without stopping or using cash, as opposed to traditional toll plazas where drivers stop to pay cash. If tolling were required on some roads or bridges in your area, which of the following would you prefer?

- 57% Combination of cash and electronic collection
- 30% All-electronic tolling
- 13% Traditional toll plazas

HNTB’s America THINKS tolling survey polled a random nationwide sample of 1,005 Americans June 25-July 1, 2010. It was conducted by Kelton Research, which used e-mail invitations and online surveys. Quotas were set to ensure reliable and accurate representation of the total U.S. population ages 18 and over. The margin of error is +/- 3 percent. For more information, visit www.hntb.com or contact John O’Connell, (816) 527-2383, joconnell@hntb.com.

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