

“Green” Taxes And Fees: A Politically Acceptable Way to Raise Transportation Revenues *and* Protect the Environment?

Asha Weinstein Agrawal



Mineta Transportation Institute

Overview

1. Green transportation taxes: what & why
2. What do Californians think?
3. Policy implications

Green taxes: What are they?

- Taxes with rates that vary by environmental performance
- We can green both existing and new taxes
 - Existing: vehicle registration fees, tolls, etc.
 - New: mileage fees, taxes on new vehicle purchases, etc.

Green taxes: The benefits

- Encourage purchase of low-impact vehicles → better environment
- Retain consumer choice
- Fair: the polluter pays

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The survey: Methods

- 1,500 adults in CA (English & Spanish)
- Questions about:
 - Support for 5 taxes and fees
 - Attitudes and knowledge
 - Travel behavior
 - Vehicle driven the most
 - Socio-demographics

The survey: The taxes/fees tested

Flat vehicle registration fee

Green vehicle registration fees

Flat mileage fee

Green mileage fee

Feebate program

Question 1:

Would Californians support green transportation taxes and fees?

Majority support the green taxes/fees

Tax/Fee	Support (%)
Feebate	65
Green reg'n fee	63
Green mileage fee	50

Green taxes/fees more popular

Fee	Support (%)
Vehicle reg/n fee	
Flat	41
Green	63

Green taxes/fees more popular

Fee	Support (%)
Vehicle reg/n fee	
Flat	41
Green	63
Mileage fee	
Flat	28
Green	50

Green taxes/fees more popular

Fee	Support (%)	Green option boost
Vehicle reg/n fee		
Flat	41	→ 22 points
Green	63	
Mileage fee		
Flat	28	→ 22 points
Green	50	

Question 2:

What population subgroups are more or less supportive?

Factors that didn't matter (much)

- Income, gender, ethnicity, age
- Likely voter or not
- Miles driven a year
- Commute mode

Factors that mattered

Less support from people who:

- Are Republicans
- Haven't used transit, biked, or walked in the last 7 days
- Drive the least fuel efficient vehicles
- Drive trucks
- Don't hold pro-environment attitudes
- Lack accurate information on transportation finance & env't

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Policy Implications

- Voters might well approve a green transportation tax or fee
- Boost public support for any new transportation tax/fee by **going green**
- Public education needed:
 - How car use causes pollution and global warming
 - Falling gas tax revenues

Want to learn more?

- www.transweb.sjsu.edu
- Email: asha.weinstein.agrawal@sjsu.edu

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