



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **New Poll Shows Support for Mass Transit in Triangle**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – On the heels of Mecklenburg County residents voting by a margin of 70-30% last month to continue a half cent sales tax for mass transit projects, a new Public Policy Polling survey shows that 63% of likely voters in the Triangle are willing to pay more to fund mass transit.

87% of survey respondents think that traffic congestion is a problem in the Triangle, and 74% of them think the solution to that congestion is developing a variety of transportation options including light rail rather than focusing exclusively on building new roads.

When given the choice of three different funding instruments for mass transit or the option of spending no additional money 63% of respondents expressed willingness to pay more in taxes. 27% favored the combination of a vehicle registration fee and an odometer tax, 25% favored a sales tax increase, and 11% listed a gas tax increase as their preferred method of funding transit. Just 29% opposed new money for transit projects.

In a separate question where respondents were asked if they would support the same half cent sales tax for transit that Charlotte does, 55% said yes and 37% said no.

“The results of our poll show that voters in the Triangle are willing to be taxed more to fund large scale mass transit projects,” explained Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

“Since there are a variety of different opinions from respondents about what instrument to use for funding mass transit, it will be up to our elected leaders to find the right solution that can earn majority support from the public,” said Debnam.

PPP surveyed 505 likely Durham, Orange, and Wake County general election voters on December 6th. The survey has a margin of error of  $\pm 4.3\%$ . Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

Complete results are attached and can be found at [www.publicpolicypolling.com](http://www.publicpolicypolling.com). Results include crosstabs breaking down the results by gender, party affiliation, race, and age.

If you have questions about this release or would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Dean Debnam at (888) 621-6988 or 919-880-4888.

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## Transit Funding Options Survey

**Q1** Do you think traffic congestion in the Triangle is a problem? If you think traffic congestion is not a problem, press 1 on your keypad now. If you think it's somewhat of a problem, press 2. If you think traffic congestion is a major problem in the Triangle, press 3. If you don't know, press 4.

*Not a problem* .....11% *Major problem* .....52%  
*Somewhat of a problem* .....35% *Don't know* ..... 2%

**Q2** Some people think that the solution to traffic congestion is building and widening more roads. Others believe we ought to develop a variety of transportation options, including roads, regional bus service, and regional rail. Which approach makes more sense to you? If you think we ought to focus strictly on building and widening more roads, press 1. If you think we ought to develop a variety of transportation options, including regional rail, press 2. If you don't know, press 3.

*Focus strictly on building and widening more roads* .....19% *Develop a variety of transportation options* .....74%  
*Don't know* ..... 7%

**Q3** Last month Mecklenburg County residents voted to continue a half cent sales tax for mass transit to relieve road congestion. If you thought it would help with traffic congestion, would you support a similar tax for counties in the Triangle? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you don't know, press 3.

*Yes* .....55% *Don't know* ..... 8%  
*No* .....37%

**Q4** Another way mass transit could be paid for is a \$40 per year increase in the vehicle registration fee. If you thought it would help with traffic congestion, would you support an increase in the vehicle registration fee? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you don't know, press 3.

*Yes* .....35% *Don't know* ..... 8%  
*No* .....58%

**Q5** Another way mass transit could be paid for is an odometer tax at the annual vehicle inspection. Vehicle owners would be charged five dollars for every thousand miles driven in excess of 12,000 miles per year. If you thought it would help with traffic congestion, would you support an odometer tax? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you don't know, press 3.

*Yes* .....32% *Don't know* ..... 8%  
*No* .....60%

**Q6** Another way mass transit could be paid for is a ten cent increase in the gas tax. If you thought it would help with traffic congestion, would you support an increase in the gas tax? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you don't know, press 3.

*Yes* .....21% *Don't know* ..... 6%  
*No* .....73%





**Q7** What would be your preferred way of generating new money for mass transit projects in the Triangle; a sales tax increase, a combination of a vehicle registration fee increase and odometer tax, a gas tax increase or do you oppose any new money for mass transit? If a sales tax increase, press 1. If a combination of a yearly increase in the vehicle registration fee and an odometer tax, press 2. If a gas tax increase, press 3. If you oppose any new money to pay for mass transit projects, press 4. If you don't know, press 5.

*Sales tax increase* .....25%    *No new money for mass transit projects* .....29%  
*Vehicle registration fee increase and odometer tax* .....27%    *Don't know* ..... 9%  
*Gas tax increase*.....11%

**Q8** North Carolina has loyal and devoted college sports fans. Which North Carolina college team do you cheer for most? Duke, NC State, UNC, or Wake Forest? If you cheer for Duke, press 1. If NC State, press 2. If UNC, press 3. If Wake Forest, press 4. If some other team, press 5.

*Duke* .....17%    *Wake Forest* ..... 4%  
*NC State* .....31%    *Another team* .....25%  
*UNC*.....23%

**Q9** What county do you live in? If Durham County, press 1. If Orange County, press 2. If Wake County, press 3.

*Durham County*.....24%    *Wake County* .....65%  
*Orange County* .....12%

**Q10** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

*Woman* .....54%    *Man*.....46%

**Q11** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If Republican, press 2. If other, press 3.

*Democrat* ..... 48%  
*Republican* ..... 30%  
*Other*..... 22%

**Q12** If you are white, press 1. If African American, press 2. If other, press 3.

*White* ..... 76%  
*African American* ..... 20%  
*Other*..... 4%

**Q13** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If older than 65, press 4.

*18 to 29*..... 4%  
*30 to 45*..... 30%  
*46 to 65*..... 45%  
*Older than 65*..... 20%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	County		
		Durham County	Orange County	Wake County
<b>Traffic Congestion</b>				
<b>Not a problem</b>	11%	10%	13%	11%
<b>Somewhat of a problem</b>	35%	29%	32%	37%
<b>Major problem</b>	52%	54%	52%	51%
<b>Don't know</b>	2%	7%	3%	0%

	Base	County		
		Durham County	Orange County	Wake County
<b>Options for dealing with congestion</b>				
<b>Focus strictly on building and widening more roads</b>	19%	12%	12%	23%
<b>Develop a variety of transportation options</b>	74%	81%	77%	70%
<b>Don't know</b>	7%	7%	12%	7%

	Base	County		
		Durham County	Orange County	Wake County
<b>Sales Tax</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	55%	55%	68%	52%
<b>No</b>	37%	40%	23%	38%
<b>Don't know</b>	8%	4%	9%	10%

	Base	County		
		Durham County	Orange County	Wake County
<b>Vehicle Registration Fee Increase</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	35%	30%	50%	33%
<b>No</b>	58%	61%	38%	60%
<b>Don't know</b>	8%	9%	12%	6%

	Base	County		
		Durham County	Orange County	Wake County
<b>Odometer Tax</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	32%	27%	43%	32%
<b>No</b>	60%	64%	45%	61%
<b>Don't know</b>	8%	9%	12%	7%

	Base	County		
		Durham County	Orange County	Wake County
<b>Gas Tax</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	21%	13%	36%	20%
<b>No</b>	73%	76%	54%	76%
<b>Don't know</b>	6%	11%	10%	4%

	Base	County		
		Durham County	Orange County	Wake County
<b>Preferred Option</b>				
<b>Sales tax increase</b>	25%	33%	21%	23%
<b>Vehicle registration fee increase and odometer tax</b>	27%	21%	35%	27%
<b>Gas tax increase</b>	11%	9%	17%	10%
<b>No new money for mass transit projects</b>	29%	30%	19%	30%
<b>Don't know</b>	9%	6%	9%	10%

	Base	County		
		Durham County	Orange County	Wake County
<b>ACC Loyalty</b>				
<b>Duke</b>	17%	34%	19%	11%
<b>NC State</b>	31%	5%	6%	45%
<b>UNC</b>	23%	32%	48%	16%
<b>Wake Forest</b>	4%	1%	1%	5%
<b>Another team</b>	25%	27%	25%	24%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Traffic Congestion</b>			
<b>Not a problem</b>	11%	7%	16%
<b>Somewhat of a problem</b>	35%	34%	35%
<b>Major problem</b>	52%	56%	48%
<b>Don't know</b>	2%	3%	1%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Options for dealing with congestion</b>			
<b>Focus strictly on building and widening more roads</b>	19%	12%	27%
<b>Develop a variety of transportation options</b>	74%	81%	65%
<b>Don't know</b>	7%	7%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Sales Tax</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	55%	57%	52%
<b>No</b>	37%	35%	40%
<b>Don't know</b>	8%	8%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Vehicle Registration Fee Increase</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	35%	33%	36%
<b>No</b>	58%	57%	58%
<b>Don't know</b>	8%	10%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Odometer Tax</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	32%	33%	31%
<b>No</b>	60%	54%	66%
<b>Don't know</b>	8%	12%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Gas Tax</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	21%	17%	25%
<b>No</b>	73%	76%	71%
<b>Don't know</b>	6%	8%	4%

Preferred Option	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Sales tax increase</b>	25%	30%	19%
<b>Vehicle registration fee increase and odometer tax</b>	27%	30%	23%
<b>Gas tax increase</b>	11%	6%	16%
<b>No new money for mass transit projects</b>	29%	22%	36%
<b>Don't know</b>	9%	12%	5%

ACC Loyalty	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Duke</b>	17%	18%	16%
<b>NC State</b>	31%	29%	34%
<b>UNC</b>	23%	25%	22%
<b>Wake Forest</b>	4%	5%	2%
<b>Another team</b>	25%	23%	27%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Traffic Congestion</b>				
<b>Not a problem</b>	11%	7%	17%	12%
<b>Somewhat of a problem</b>	35%	29%	37%	44%
<b>Major problem</b>	52%	62%	46%	39%
<b>Don't know</b>	2%	1%	1%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Options for dealing with congestion</b>				
<b>Focus strictly on building and widening more roads</b>	19%	8%	35%	23%
<b>Develop a variety of transportation options</b>	74%	87%	56%	66%
<b>Don't know</b>	7%	5%	9%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Sales Tax</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	55%	72%	33%	44%
<b>No</b>	37%	20%	57%	48%
<b>Don't know</b>	8%	8%	9%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Vehicle Registration Fee Increase</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	35%	41%	23%	37%
<b>No</b>	58%	49%	71%	58%
<b>Don't know</b>	8%	10%	6%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Odometer Tax</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	32%	42%	20%	27%
<b>No</b>	60%	49%	72%	66%
<b>Don't know</b>	8%	9%	8%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Gas Tax</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	21%	25%	11%	24%
<b>No</b>	73%	67%	85%	71%
<b>Don't know</b>	6%	8%	5%	5%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Preferred Option</b>				
<b>Sales tax increase</b>	25%	31%	20%	19%
<b>Vehicle registration fee increase and odometer tax</b>	27%	32%	18%	25%
<b>Gas tax increase</b>	11%	10%	9%	15%
<b>No new money for mass transit projects</b>	28%	16%	45%	34%
<b>Don't know</b>	9%	10%	7%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>ACC Loyalty</b>				
<b>Duke</b>	17%	16%	23%	12%
<b>NC State</b>	31%	29%	37%	26%
<b>UNC</b>	23%	28%	19%	19%
<b>Wake Forest</b>	4%	3%	2%	6%
<b>Another team</b>	25%	24%	18%	37%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Traffic Congestion</b>				
Not a problem	11%	9%	17%	19%
Somewhat of a problem	35%	37%	28%	27%
Major problem	52%	53%	48%	54%
Don't know	2%	1%	7%	-

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Options for dealing with congestion</b>				
Focus strictly on building and widening more roads	19%	21%	14%	14%
Develop a variety of transportation options	74%	72%	79%	83%
Don't know	7%	8%	7%	3%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Sales Tax</b>				
Yes	55%	58%	41%	49%
No	37%	34%	48%	43%
Don't know	8%	8%	10%	8%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Vehicle Registration Fee Increase</b>				
Yes	35%	40%	14%	35%
No	58%	52%	79%	62%
Don't know	8%	8%	7%	3%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Odometer Tax</b>				
Yes	32%	37%	10%	49%
No	60%	54%	83%	43%
Don't know	8%	8%	7%	8%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Gas Tax</b>				
Yes	21%	23%	10%	30%
No	73%	71%	83%	68%
Don't know	6%	6%	7%	3%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Preferred Option</b>				
Sales tax increase	25%	25%	29%	16%
Vehicle registration fee increase and odometer tax	27%	31%	11%	27%
Gas tax increase	11%	10%	14%	14%
No new money for mass transit projects	29%	27%	36%	27%
Don't know	9%	8%	11%	16%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>ACC Loyalty</b>				
Duke	17%	16%	21%	14%
NC State	31%	36%	14%	28%
UNC	23%	24%	21%	17%
Wake Forest	4%	3%	7%	3%
Another team	25%	21%	38%	39%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Traffic Congestion</b>					
<b>Not a problem</b>	11%	12%	7%	11%	16%
<b>Somewhat of a problem</b>	35%	45%	44%	32%	25%
<b>Major problem</b>	52%	38%	47%	55%	57%
<b>Don't know</b>	2%	4%	2%	2%	2%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Options for dealing with congestion</b>					
<b>Focus strictly on building and widening more roads</b>	19%	27%	21%	20%	12%
<b>Develop a variety of transportation options</b>	74%	69%	74%	75%	71%
<b>Don't know</b>	7%	4%	5%	5%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Sales Tax</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	55%	58%	57%	56%	48%
<b>No</b>	37%	38%	35%	35%	46%
<b>Don't know</b>	8%	4%	9%	9%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Vehicle Registration Fee Increase</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	35%	52%	33%	37%	28%
<b>No</b>	58%	40%	59%	56%	62%
<b>Don't know</b>	8%	8%	8%	7%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Odometer Tax</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	32%	29%	23%	33%	46%
<b>No</b>	60%	60%	70%	59%	46%
<b>Don't know</b>	8%	11%	7%	9%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Gas Tax</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	21%	21%	20%	23%	15%
<b>No</b>	73%	60%	77%	69%	79%
<b>Don't know</b>	6%	19%	3%	7%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Preferred Option</b>					
<b>Sales tax increase</b>	25%	41%	32%	22%	17%
<b>Vehicle registration fee increase and odometer tax</b>	27%	29%	20%	28%	33%
<b>Gas tax increase</b>	11%	4%	11%	12%	9%
<b>No new money for mass transit projects</b>	29%	19%	30%	28%	31%
<b>Don't know</b>	9%	7%	8%	10%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>ACC Loyalty</b>					
<b>Duke</b>	17%	17%	7%	20%	25%
<b>NC State</b>	31%	40%	33%	28%	34%
<b>UNC</b>	23%	27%	25%	25%	16%
<b>Wake Forest</b>	4%	-	3%	3%	5%
<b>Another team</b>	25%	17%	32%	23%	20%

