

1724 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20009  
(202) 234-5570

Interviews: 1,005 voters  
Dates: January 5-7, 2009

**FINAL**

Study #8901  
NAR/SGA Survey  
January 2009

48	Male
52	Female
<b>[109]</b>	

***Please note: all results are shown as percentages unless otherwise stated.***

- 1a. First, does anyone in this household work for a radio station, a television station, a newspaper, an advertising agency, a market research firm, or as an active political campaign worker?

No .....	100	<b>CONTINUE</b>	<b>[138]</b>
Yes.....	-	<b>TERMINATE</b>	
Not sure .....	-		

- 1b. Are you currently registered to vote at this address?

Registered .....	100	<b>CONTINUE</b>	<b>[139]</b>
Not registered .....	-	<b>TERMINATE</b>	
Not sure .....	-		

2. All in all, do you think that things in the nation are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel that things are off on the wrong track?

	<u>1/09</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>10/07</u> <sup>2</sup>	<u>3/01</u> <sup>2</sup>	<u>2/00</u> <sup>2</sup>	<u>7/99</u> <sup>2</sup>	<b>[144]</b>
Headed in the right direction .....	24	24	47	57	50	
Off on the wrong track.....	61	67	43	36	41	
Mixed (VOL).....	9	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Not sure .....	6	8	10	7	9	

<sup>1</sup>Prior to January 2009, the question was phrased, "Now, generally speaking, do you feel things in the COUNTRY are going in the right direction, or have they pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?"

<sup>2</sup>Comparative data comes from surveys conducted by Public Opinion Strategies.

3. Thinking more locally, do you think that things in the community where you live are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel that things in your community are off on the wrong track?

Headed in the right direction.....	47	<b>[145]</b>
Off on the wrong track .....	39	
Mixed (VOL) .....	10	
Not sure .....	4	

4. Please tell me how good a job you think your community is doing handling each of the following issues, that is to say, whether you feel that your community is doing an excellent job, a good job, a fair job, or a poor job addressing that issue.

*THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY EXCELLENT OR GOOD JOB*

	Excellent <u>Job</u>	Good <u>Job</u>	Fair <u>Job</u>	Poor <u>Job</u>	Not <u>Sure</u>	
<b>Providing parks and protecting open space</b>						<b>[148]</b>
January 2009 .....	17	48	21	11	3	
October 2007 <sup>1</sup> .....	16	44	25	14	2	
March 2001 <sup>1</sup> .....	12	47	26	12	2	
August 2008 <sup>1</sup> .....	20	44	26	8	1	
<b>Providing good public schools</b>						<b>[147]</b>
January 2009 .....	17	41	24	13	5	
October 2007 <sup>1</sup> .....	20	39	24	13	4	
March 2001 <sup>1</sup> .....	15	41	26	13	4	
August 2008 <sup>1</sup> .....	20	43	24	9	3	
<b>Ensuring that various aspects of the transportation system, such as roads, public transportation, and walkways and trails work well together</b>						<b>[151]</b>
January 2009 .....	8	42	33	15	2	
<b>Ensuring that the local road system is well-maintained and not congested</b>						<b>[146]</b>
January 2009 .....	8	40	31	20	1	
<b>Managing growth and new development</b>						<b>[150]</b>
January 2009 .....	6	34	32	24	4	
October 2007 <sup>1</sup> .....	8	30	31	27	3	
March 2001 <sup>1</sup> .....	8	38	30	21	3	
August 2008 <sup>1</sup> .....	12	32	30	22	4	
<b>Providing practical and convenient public transportation</b>						<b>[149]</b>
January 2009 .....	7	31	27	26	9	
October 2007 <sup>1</sup> .....	6	29	27	30	8	
March 2001 <sup>1</sup> .....	7	33	24	27	10	
August 2008 <sup>1</sup> .....	7	28	26	33	7	

<sup>1</sup>Comparative data comes from surveys conducted by Public Opinion Strategies.

5. I am now going to read you several statements about growth, and after I read each one, please tell me whether you agree or disagree with that statement. (IF "AGREE/DISAGREE," ASK:) And do you strongly or somewhat (agree/disagree)?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY STRONGLY OR SOMEWHAT AGREE

	Agree		Disagree		Not Sure	
	Strongly	Some-what	Some-what	Strongly		
<b>New home construction should be limited in outlying areas and encouraged in already developed areas</b>						<b>[154]</b>
January 2009 .....	30	28	20	16	6	
<b>Businesses and homes should be built closer together, so that stores and restaurants are within walking distance and do not require the use of an automobile</b>						<b>[153]</b>
January 2009 .....	24	25	23	25	3	
October 2007 <sup>2</sup> .....	31	25	19	23	1	
<b>Businesses and homes should be built closer together to shorten commutes and limit traffic congestion</b>						<b>[152]</b>
January 2009 <sup>1</sup> .....	21	26	23	27	3	
October 2007 <sup>2</sup> .....	27	28	20	23	2	

<sup>1</sup>Prior to January 2009, the item was phrased, "Businesses and homes should be built closer together, often in the same community, to shorten commutes and limit traffic congestion."

<sup>2</sup>Comparative data comes from surveys conducted by Public Opinion Strategies.

6. Many communities experience traffic congestion. I'm going to read you two statements about traffic congestion and I'd like you to tell me which of these is closer to your view.

**Statement A:** Some people say that we need to build more roads and expand existing roads to help reduce traffic congestion.

**Statement B:** Some people say that we need to improve public transportation, including trains and buses, and make it easier to walk and bike to help reduce traffic congestion.

Which of these is closer to your view?

<b>Statement A:</b> Build more roads and expand existing roads....	27	<b>[155]</b>
<b>Statement B:</b> Improve public transportation.....	67	
Not sure.....	6	

Now I'd like to talk a little bit about the federal government and priorities for the budget . . .

7. As the federal government makes its plans for transportation funding in 2009, which ONE of the following should be the top priority?

Expanding and improving roads, highways, freeways and bridges.....	16	<b>[156]</b>
Maintaining and repairing roads, highways, freeways and bridges.....	50	
Expanding and improving bus, rail, and other public transportation.....	31	
Not sure.....	3	

8. Which of the following proposals is the best long-term solution to reducing traffic in your area?

	<u>1/09</u>	<u>10/07<sup>1</sup></u>	
Building new roads.....	20	21	<b>[157]</b>
Improving public transportation .....	47	49	
Developing communities where people do not have to drive as much .....	25	26	
Not sure.....	8	4	

<sup>1</sup>Comparative data comes from surveys conducted by Public Opinion Strategies.

9. The federal tax on gasoline is now eighteen-point-four cents per gallon. To pay for transportation projects and create jobs, would you favor or oppose raising the federal tax on gasoline by an additional (**READ ITEM**)?

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Five cents a gallon .....	40	57	3	<b>[158]</b>
Ten cents a gallon.....	23	75	2	<b>[159]</b>

10a. While gasoline taxes are used to pay for building and improving roads, new sources of money may be needed for roads in the future. Would you approve or disapprove of charging tolls on more roads if the result was more money spent on road building and improvement?

**(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY APPROVE/DISAPPROVE IN Q.10a.)**

10b. And do you strongly or somewhat (**APPROVE/DISAPPROVE IN Q.10a**)?

	<u>1/09</u>	<u>10/07<sup>1</sup></u>	
<b>Approve</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>[160-161]</b>
Strongly .....	18	26	
Somewhat .....	28	29	
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>44</b>	
Strongly .....	34	33	
Somewhat .....	16	11	
Not sure.....	4	1	

<sup>1</sup>Comparative data comes from surveys conducted by Public Opinion Strategies.

11a. Would you support or oppose charging tolls on some freeways during rush hours as a way to reduce congestion on those freeways?

**(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY SUPPORT/OPPOSE IN Q.11a.)**

11b. Would you say you strongly (**SUPPORT/OPPOSE IN Q.11a**) or somewhat (**SUPPORT/OPPOSE IN Q.11a**)?

	<u>1/09</u>	<u>10/07<sup>1</sup></u>	
<b>Support</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>[162-162]</b>
Strongly .....	14	20	
Somewhat .....	20	17	
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>60</b>	
Strongly .....	44	47	
Somewhat .....	17	14	
Not sure.....	5	3	

<sup>1</sup>Comparative data comes from surveys conducted by Public Opinion Strategies.

**Moving along . . .**

12. As you may know, an economic stimulus plan will be introduced in Congress, which includes job creation through transportation and other infrastructure spending. I am going to mention some different kinds of projects that could be included in this economic stimulus plan. For each one, please tell me whether you think it definitely should be included, probably should be included, probably should not be included, or definitely should not be included as part of the economic stimulus plan.

*THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY DEFINITELY OR PROBABLY SHOULD BE INCLUDED*

	<b>Should Be Included</b>		<b>Should Not Be Included</b>		<b>Not Sure</b>	
	<u>Definitely</u>	<u>Probably</u>	<u>Probably</u>	<u>Definitely</u>		
Highway and bridge repair projects .....	59	34	2	4	1	<b>[164]</b>
Alternative energies such as wind and solar power.....	68	18	5	6	3	<b>[168]</b>
The development and improvement of public transportation .....	50	33	8	7	2	<b>[166]</b>
Developing and expanding parks that preserve green space and recreation areas in communities .....	40	31	15	13	1	<b>[167]</b>
The construction of new highways.....	21	31	29	16	3	<b>[165]</b>

13. I'm going to mention some goals for transportation and infrastructure projects. Please tell me which one or two of these goals you consider the most important right now.

*THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE*

Promote long-term economic growth, not just short-term job creation .....	41	<b>[169]</b>
Reduce our consumption of imported oil .....	34	>
Create as many new jobs as possible as soon as possible on construction projects .....	24	
Repair deteriorating bridges and roadways .....	23	
Protect the environment and reduce the emission of greenhouse gases that lead to climate change .....	19	
Provide people with more transportation choices in the communities where they live.....	13	
Reduce traffic and congestion in the communities where we live.....	5	
Not sure .....	1	

14. I'm going to read you two statements and I'd like you to tell me which one comes closer to your point of view.

**Statement A:** Transportation and other infrastructure spending should only include projects that can be started right away, such as traditional highway and bridge construction, to create new jobs and provide an immediate boost to the economy.

**Statement B:** Transportation and other infrastructure spending should be targeted specifically to projects that achieve multiple goals, including creating new jobs, reducing dependence on foreign oil, improving the environment, and increasing transportation choices, even if the jobs are created over a longer period of time.

<b>Statement A:</b> Should only include traditional highway and bridge construction .....	15	<b>[170]</b>
<b>Statement B:</b> Should target projects that achieve multiple goals .....	80	
Depends (VOL).....	2	
Not sure.....	3	

15. Given that the U.S. population will increase by one hundred million people by twenty-fifty, which of the following transportation approaches do you prefer to accommodate this growth?

Build and improve rail systems, such as commuter rail, light rail, and subways.....	75	<b>[171]</b>
Build new highways and freeways .....	20	
Not sure .....	5	

16. I'm going to mention types of transportation and I'd like you to tell me which one or two you feel are not getting enough attention and emphasis from the federal government.

*THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE*

Trains or light rail systems .....	56	<b>[172]</b>
Roads .....	27	>
Buses.....	21	
Bike paths or trails .....	15	
Sidewalks .....	14	
None (VOL) .....	2	
Not sure .....	3	

17. The U.S. Congress and President-Elect Obama are planning to spend more money on transportation investments in the economic stimulus package. Now I'm going to read you some statements about how this money should be spent--please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each statement.

*THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY STRONGLY OR SOMEWHAT AGREE*

	<b>Agree</b>		<b>Disagree</b>		<b>Not Sure</b>	
	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Some-what</u>	<u>Some-what</u>	<u>Strongly</u>		
Transportation investments should be based on their overall benefit to the community and not just to create jobs .....	65	25	5	3	2	<b>[173]</b>
Transportation investments should support the goals of reducing energy use .....	58	31	5	4	2	<b>[175]</b>
We should not fund transportation projects that will add to our environmental problems and the problem of congestion in the long run, even if those projects create construction jobs in the short run.....	47	29	11	11	2	<b>[174]</b>
Transportation investments should support the goals of reducing the carbon emissions that lead to global warming and climate change .....	47	28	9	13	3	<b>[176]</b>
The primary consideration in deciding which transportation projects to fund is how many jobs they will create in the short run.....	14	30	28	24	4	<b>[177]</b>

18. Now I'm going to read you a number of reasons why some people say transportation and other infrastructure spending in the economic stimulus plan should go beyond traditional highway and bridge construction and focus on projects that achieve multiple goals. For each one, please tell me whether you find this to be a very convincing reason, fairly convincing, just somewhat convincing, or not that convincing a reason for why transportation and other infrastructure spending should go beyond traditional highway and bridge construction.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY VERY CONVINCING REASON

	Convincing Reason				Not Sure	
	Very	Fairly	Just Somewhat	Not That		
The infrastructure spending in the economic stimulus package is estimated to be seven hundred and fifty billion dollars. Because this is such a large investment, we must ensure that we are spending the money wisely and the money is not just a short-term fix for the economy. The infrastructure spending should also provide for a better, more secure future with sustainable jobs that will continue to be in demand.....	51	20	18	9	2	[210/ 218]
Including projects that achieve multiple goals will help us reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Today, fifty-eight percent of the oil we use comes from outside the United States. Most of the oil reserves are in the Middle East, including countries that are not our allies. We must become less dependent on other nations for our energy, and increasing spending on public transportation will help us to do this .....	46	21	18	13	2	[208/ 216]
Including projects that achieve multiple goals offers the best value for taxpayers because not only will these projects improve the economy, but they also achieve other important goals such as reducing dependence on foreign oil, improving the environment, and increasing transportation choices in local communities. And these projects will create better jobs that will continue to be in demand .....	40	23	28	8	1	[211/ 219]
Including projects that achieve multiple goals will improve the quality of life for all Americans. Well thought out plans for transportation and development will lead to cleaner air and fewer health problems, shorter commute times and less money spent on gasoline, and more parks and open space * .....	35	28	25	11	1	[212]
We cannot afford to take the same approach in transportation. We have seen that building more roads does not reduce congestion and only adds to pollution. Instead, a plan that includes a focus on increasing the use of public transportation will reduce road congestion, pollution, and travel costs **.....	33	22	25	18	2	[220]
Including projects that achieve multiple goals will help improve the environment by minimizing air and water pollution, cleaning up land that has been damaged by hazardous materials, preserving wildlife and pristine lands, and minimizing the environmental impact of new developments .....	32	21	28	18	1	[178/ 213]
Including projects that achieve multiple goals, such as increased spending on public transportation, will help improve the economy. According to a recent study, in just one year congestion in America's major cities caused three-point-seven billion hours of travel delay and two-point-three billion gallons of wasted fuel. It is estimated that for every ten million dollars invested in public transportation business generates an additional thirty million dollars.....	27	22	31	16	4	[179/ 214]

\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

\*\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

Q.18 (cont'd)

	Convincing Reason				Not Sure	
	Very	Fairly	Just Somewhat	Not That		
Including projects that achieve multiple goals, such as increased spending on public transportation and encouraging walking and cycling, will help improve the economy both at a personal and national level. If all new developments in the United States employed these policies, personal transportation costs could be reduced by at least six hundred dollars a month, and the economic benefit to the economy would exceed two trillion dollars, or about twenty percent of one year's gross domestic product.....	26	20	25	25	4	[180/ 215]
Including projects that achieve multiple goals, such as increased spending on public transportation and encouraging walking and cycling, will help us reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming. If all new developments in the United States employed these policies, we could cut our greenhouse gas emissions by ten percent .....	25	22	26	26	1	[209/ 217]

19. Thinking back to what you have just heard, I'd like to read you the two statements about the economic stimulus plan and infrastructure spending again and I'd like you to tell me which comes closer to your point of view.

**Statement A:** Transportation and other infrastructure spending should only include projects that can be started right away, such as traditional highway and bridge construction, to create new jobs and provide an immediate boost to the economy.

**Statement B:** Transportation and other infrastructure spending should be targeted specifically to projects that achieve multiple goals, including creating new jobs, reducing dependence on foreign oil, improving the environment, and increasing transportation choices, even if the jobs are created over a longer period of time.

<b>Statement A:</b> Should only include traditional highway and bridge construction ....	15	[221]
<b>Statement B:</b> Should target projects that achieve multiple goals .....	80	
Depends (VOL).....	2	
Not sure .....	3	

**FACTUALS: Now I am going to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only.**

F1a. A lot of people are unable to get out and vote for many reasons. Did you happen to vote in the November election for president?

**(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY YES IN Q.F1a.)**

F1b. For whom did you vote--Barack Obama, John McCain, or someone else?

<b>Yes, Voted</b>		
Voted for Barack Obama .....	44	[222-223]
Voted for John McCain .....	38	
Voted for someone else.....	11	
<b>No, Did Not Vote</b> .....	5	
Not sure .....	2	

F2. What is the last grade that you completed in school?

Grade school .....	1	<b>[224-225]</b>
Some high school .....	3	
High school graduate.....	22	
Some college, no degree.....	18	
Vocational training/2-year college .....	13	
4-year college/bachelor's degree .....	25	
Some postgraduate work, no degree .....	2	
2 or 3 years' postgraduate work/master's degree.....	12	
Doctoral/law degree.....	2	
Not sure/refused .....	2	

F3. Are you currently married, unmarried and living with a partner, single and never married, separated, widowed, or divorced?

Married .....	67	<b>[226]</b>
Unmarried, living with a partner.....	2	
Single.....	16	
Separated .....	2	
Widowed.....	5	
Divorced .....	5	
Other (VOL).....	1	
Not sure/refused .....	2	

F4. Would you describe the area that you live in as an urban area, a suburban area, a small town, or a rural area?

Urban.....	19	<b>[227]</b>
Suburban .....	34	
Small town .....	24	
Rural.....	20	
Not sure .....	3	

F5. Do you rent or own your current residence?

Rent.....	16	<b>[228]</b>
Own .....	79	
Refused/other/not sure .....	5	

F6. Are you the parent or guardian of any children age 18 or under who live at home with you?

Yes, parent/guardian of children at home.....	33	<b>[229]</b>
No, not parent/guardian of children at home ...	65	
Not sure/refused .....	2	

F7. Are you currently employed? **(IF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED:)** What type of work do you do?

**(IF NOT CURRENTLY EMPLOYED:)** Are you a student, a homemaker, retired, or unemployed and looking for work?

<u>Currently Employed</u>		
Professional/ manager .....	22	<b>[230-231]</b>
White-collar worker .....	20	
Blue-collar worker .....	14	
Farmer, rancher .....	1	
<u>Not Currently Employed</u>		
Student.....	4	
Homemaker.....	7	
Retired.....	24	
Unemployed, looking for work.....	5	
Other .....	-	
Not sure.....	3	

F8. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican, an independent, or something else? **(IF "DEMOCRAT" OR "REPUBLICAN," ASK:)** Would you call yourself a strong (Democrat/Republican) or not a very strong (Democrat/Republican)? **(IF "INDEPENDENT," ASK:)** Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party, closer to the Democratic Party, or do you think of yourself as strictly independent?

Strong Democrat .....	25	<b>[238]</b>
Not very strong Democrat.....	7	
Independent/lean Democrat .....	8	
Strictly independent .....	18	
Independent/lean Republican.....	9	
Not very strong Republican .....	7	
Strong Republican .....	17	
Other (VOL).....	5	
Not sure .....	4	

F9. If you added together the yearly income of all the members of your family who were living at home last year, would the total be less than ten thousand dollars, between ten thousand dollars and twenty thousand dollars, between twenty thousand dollars and thirty thousand dollars, between thirty thousand dollars and forty thousand dollars, between forty thousand dollars and fifty thousand dollars, between fifty thousand dollars and seventy-five thousand dollars, between seventy-five thousand dollars and one hundred thousand dollars, between one hundred thousand dollars and one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, or would the total be more than that?

Less than \$10,000 .....	3	<b>[239-240]</b>
Between \$10,000 and \$20,000 .....	5	
Between \$20,000 and \$30,000 .....	6	
Between \$30,000 and \$40,000 .....	7	
Between \$40,000 and \$50,000 .....	7	
Between \$50,000 and \$75,000 .....	19	
Between \$75,000 and \$100,000 .....	15	
Between \$100,000 and \$150,000 .....	11	
More than \$150,000 .....	6	
Not sure/refused .....	21	

F10. For statistical purposes only, would you please tell me how old you are? (IF "REFUSED," ASK:) Well, would you tell me which age group you belong to?

18-24 .....	8	<b>[140-141]</b>
25-29 .....	7	
30-34 .....	9	
35-39 .....	7	
40-44 .....	11	
45-49 .....	10	
50-54 .....	9	
55-59 .....	10	
60-64 .....	9	
65-69 .....	6	
70-74 .....	5	
75 and over .....	8	
Refused .....	1	

F11. And again, for statistical purposes only, are you from a Hispanic or Spanish-speaking background?

Yes, Hispanic .....	11	<b>[142]</b>
No, not Hispanic .....	89	
Not sure/refused .....	-	

F12. To ensure that we have a representative sample, what is your race—white, black, Asian, or something else?

White .....	76	<b>[143]</b>
Black .....	11	
Asian .....	1	
Other .....	3	
Hispanic (VOL) .....	8	
Not sure/refused .....	1	