



UNDERSTANDING THE TRANSPORTATION VOTER

Why Long-Term Infrastructure Funding Matters

New national survey research for CRH shows that voters want Congress to ensure long-term dedicated funding for transportation infrastructure, and they see the issue as both urgent and personal. Voters are making clear that transportation investment matters not only for the economy, but for affordability, reliability, safety, and everyday life.



Methodology: On behalf of CRH, FTP Insights conducted a national online survey among N=2,161 registered voters from August 14-20, 2026. The margin of error is +/- 2.1 at the 95% confidence interval.

Voters Want Long-Term Funding, Not Just Short-Term Fixes

The current federal surface transportation reauthorization expires this year, but voters strongly support continued long-term investment.

87%

say it is important that Congress makes sure transportation infrastructure funding continues in 2026, so funding doesn't lapse.

The importance of this issue is bipartisan.

90% Republican

89% Democrat

85%

say it is important that their own member of Congress votes to keep transportation funding in place for years to come.

Voters prefer that Congress pass a bill that ensures long-term dedicated funding for roads, bridges, and other transportation infrastructure rather than relying on short-term extensions.

72% long-term dedicated funding preference

19% short-term extension preference





Aging and Insufficient Infrastructure Costs Families

Voters are feeling the cost of transportation challenges in their everyday lives.

82%

of voters over the past year have had to cut back spending in other areas, drive less, change travel plans, delay car maintenance, or use public transportation more often due to rising costs.

Transportation Challenges Cost Voters' Time

31%

left home earlier
than planned

25%

spent less time with
family and friends

23%

arrived late
to work

20%

missed an
appointment

Better Infrastructure Delivers Everyday Benefits

40%

improved safety

39%

reduced stress

36%

lower transportation
costs

25%

more time
with family

24%

shorter commutes





Transportation Matters at the Ballot Box

Voters want candidates for Congress to talk more about transportation in the campaign – and to follow through with action that repairs roads, improves safety, and eases the daily financial and time costs of poor infrastructure.

85%

say it is important that a candidate for Congress commits to funding transportation infrastructure when they decide who to support in the 2026 midterm elections, including 86% of both Republicans and Democrats.

	% Want Candidates to Talk More	% Important for Candidates to Address It
Repairing our nation’s crumbling roads, highways, and bridges	67%	90%
Dealing with growing safety hazards from aging and poorly maintained roads	65%	90%
Investing in our transportation infrastructure so that people can commute to work, school, and family events without unpredictable and extensive traffic delays	64%	90%
Building new roads, highways, and bridges to help deal with traffic jams and overcrowded roads	59%	87%
Ensuring that our nation has the best roads, highways and bridges so that our businesses can compete and grow	59%	86%
Addressing the growing costs of car ownership and repairs that come from potholes and other road problems	55%	84%



The Transportation Voter Looks Like America

The “transportation voter” is not an isolated slice of the electorate. What makes this segment important is that it reflects a broad cross-section of the electorate that is especially attuned to the real-world consequences of poor infrastructure. Transportation stands out as one of the few issues where voters across the spectrum are aligned on both the problem and the solution.

In the survey, **20% of voters fall into a segment defined by strong support for transportation infrastructure, real-life experience with transportation-related costs and challenges, and a likelihood that the issue will influence their vote choice.**

On many demographic measures, transportation voters look a lot like the country as a whole – especially when it comes to partisanship, where they live, and age.

	All Voters	Transportation Voters
Republicans	42%	42%
Democrats	43%	48%
Independents	13%	10%
Urban Voters	32%	36%
Suburban Voters	44%	40%
Rural Voters	22%	22%
Age 18-34	30%	30%
Age 35-44	16%	16%
Age 45-64	33%	35%
Age 65+	21%	19%



Across the country, voters are looking for leaders who will take the reins, keep transportation funding in place for the long term, and make visible progress on the roads, bridges, and infrastructure Americans rely on every day.

