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Interviews: 1,000 adults
Margin of error: ± 3.1

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS POLL
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***Lane Divides Ahead:
Close Split Between Preferences for Mass Transit vs. Road Building;
Traffic Burden Weighs Heaviest on the Pacific Region, Suburban Men***

Between June 18-20, 2004, Ipsos Public Affairs conducted a poll of 1,000 adults nationwide for The Associated Press. The margin of error is ± 3.1 percentage points.

(WASHINGTON, June 28, 2004) Even though almost all working Americans drive alone or with others to work—and few take mass transit or walk—Americans overall are pretty evenly divided on whether government transportation spending should favor road-building or mass transit, The Associated Press/Ipsos Public Affairs poll on traffic and transportation shows.

Divided on Spending Priorities

Half (51%) think the higher priority should be on expanding public transportation. Only 46% prefer a priority be placed on building more roads and highways, even though 91% of working Americans drive to work, including 87% who drive alone.

Q. Which do you think should be the higher priority for government spending?

Building more roads and highways	46
Expanding public transportation such as buses, subways and trains.....	51
Not sure	3

Urban residents (60%), people in the Northeast (59%), and college-educated women (62%) all prefer spending on public transportation. Republicans (58%), especially Republican men (63%) prefer road building, as do people in the Oil Patch states (60%) and rural areas in general (57%).

Q. Would you be willing to pay more in taxes if the money were used to make significant improvements in the roads and public transportation in your area, or not?

Yes.....	56
No	43
Not sure	1

While a majority of Americans say they would pay more in tax to improve roads and public transport, fully two-thirds in the Pacific region (65%) would be willing to pay up. This view is shared not only by Democratic voters (64%), but also half of Republicans (49%) and Independents (47%).

Commuting Life Today

Almost everyone who works outside the home drives to work, and almost all those drivers drive alone. Public transportation is most often used by people living in the Northeastern U.S. (13%), city dwellers (9%) and minorities (12%). Just 4% overall say they carpool, hardly more than the 3% who walk to work each day.

(Q. ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO SAY THEY ARE CURRENTLY EMPLOYED OUTSIDE THE HOME)

Q. How do you generally get to work? Do you...

Drive yourself	87
Take mass transportation such as a bus or train	4
Ride with someone else	4
Walk	3
Something else.....	2
Not sure.....	-

On average, Americans who drive themselves or ride with someone else to work spend about 22 minutes on the road each way. A third (32%) get to work in ten minutes or less, and only 2% say they drive more than an hour each way. Men (25 minutes on average) tend to have a longer commute than women (18 minutes), and men who are over age 45 (30 minutes), living in the suburbs (29 minutes) and married (28 minutes on average) have the longest commutes of all.

(Q. ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO DRIVE THEMSELVES OR RIDE WITH SOMEONE ELSE TO WORK)

Q. How many minutes does it usually take for you to drive from home to work?

1-5 minutes	14
6-10 minutes	18
11-15 minutes	22
16-20 minutes	14
21-30 minutes	14
31-45 minutes	11
46-60 minutes	4
More than 60 minutes	2
Not sure	1
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Mean	21.5
Median	14.5

Six-in-ten Americans say that traffic in their area is an inconvenience, although more say it is a minor (39%) than a major one (21%). Four-in-ten say it is not an inconvenience. Traffic is most often reported to be a major inconvenience by people in the Pacific region (32%). Urban and suburban residents alike see traffic as a bother.

Q. Would you say that traffic in your area is ...

A major inconvenience.....	21
A minor inconvenience.....	39
Not an inconvenience at all.....	40
Not sure	-

Signs indicate that traffic is only getting worse. Half (55%) say traffic in their area has gotten worse over the past five years, a third (33%) say it is about the same. Only 6% say traffic has improved in their area.

Residents of the Pacific region are among the most likely to say traffic has gotten worse (69%; 50% "a lot"), along with suburbanites (62%). Women who are married (65%), over age 45 (62%), have some college (63%) or a degree (61%), have household incomes over \$50,000 per year (63%), and are Democratic voters (65%) are relatively more critical of traffic today than others.

Q. How has the traffic in your area changed over the past five years? Would you say it has? Would you say traffic has gotten a lot (better/worse) or only a little (better/worse)?

Total Gotten Better.....	6
- A lot better.....	3
- A little better.....	3
Stayed about the same.....	33
Total Gotten Worse	55
- A lot.....	31
- A little	24
(NOT READ) Have not lived in area for 5 years	5
Not sure.....	1

Over three-quarters (78%) say they have made at least one change to their daily routine because of increased traffic. Half or more say they have allowed more time for travel (63%), avoided certain roads (57%) or driving during certain hours (51%). People living in the Northeast (72%) and Pacific (73%) regions are most likely to say they have changed their routine to accommodate increased traffic. However, only one in ten (11%) say they have taken mass transit instead of driving. This option is most common among people living in cities (20%) and the Northeast (20%; 14% in the Pacific region), non-whites (23%) and those with low household income (19%).

Q. I'm going to read you a list of changes you might have made to your normal daily routine because of increased traffic. As I read each one, please tell me which if any of these changes you have made to your own normal daily routine because of increased traffic. Have you?

% Saying Yes, Have Made Change		
	ALL ADULTS	Employed Outside Home
Allowed more time for travel	63	61
Avoided certain highways.....	57	58
Avoided driving during certain hours.....	51	45
Taken mass transit instead of driving	11	10
Have Made At Least One Change.....	78	76
Have Not Made Any Changes	22	24