

WSTC Public Outreach Program

Voice Of Washington State (VOWS)

Panel & Phone Surveys

Final Presentation

Conducted by:

Research Assurance and Abt SRBI

Presentation to:

Washington State Transportation Commission

January 2017



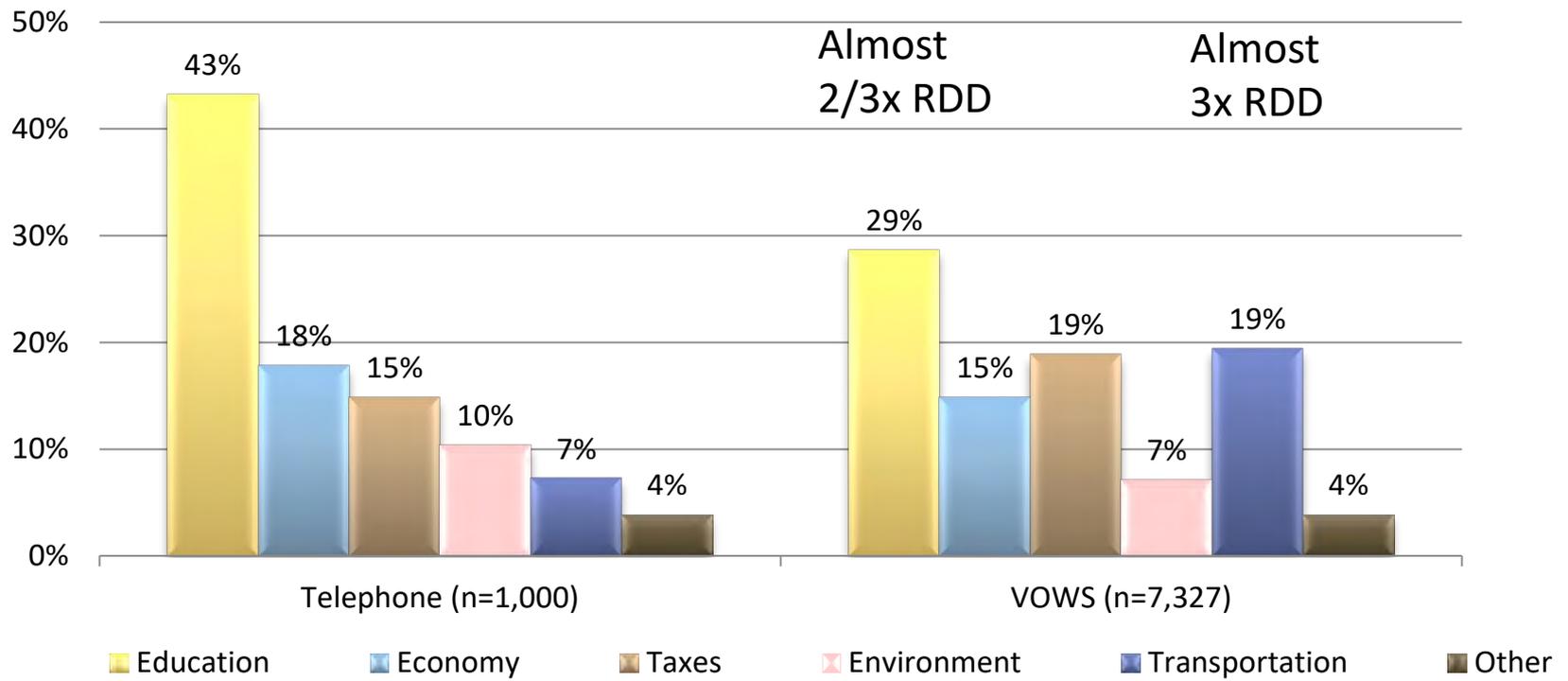
BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

- **The Overall Purpose Of The VOWS Program:** To provide the Commission, Governor and State Legislature with an understanding of Washington State citizen's attitudes and opinions on transportation policy & funding issues, investment priorities, and funding alternatives.
- **Panel Started In 2010:** Currently 29,868 panel members with 26,654 having done 1 or more surveys. Done over 10 VOWS surveys with most having 7,000+ responses.
- **Conducted Two Probability Studies:** Address Base Sample (ABS) of 5,518 in 2010 and Random Digit Dial (RDD) Phone Sample of 1,000 done in 2017.
- **VOWS Members Join the Panel Via:**
 - 50% Of The Random Address Based Sample Signed Up For The VOWS Panel
 - Emailed VOWS Invite To Registered & Active Washington State Voters & General Washington State Citizens
 - WSTC and WSDOT Website Links To VOWS Signup Page
 - Various Local Newspaper Articles With Links To VOWS Signup Page
 - “Recruit A Friend” Emails Sent By VOWS Members To Encourage Sign-up
- **Studies in 2017:** *Statewide Attitudes Towards Key Transportation Issue via RDD Phone and VOWS Panel conducted from January 6 – 21, 2017.*

SURVEY FINDINGS

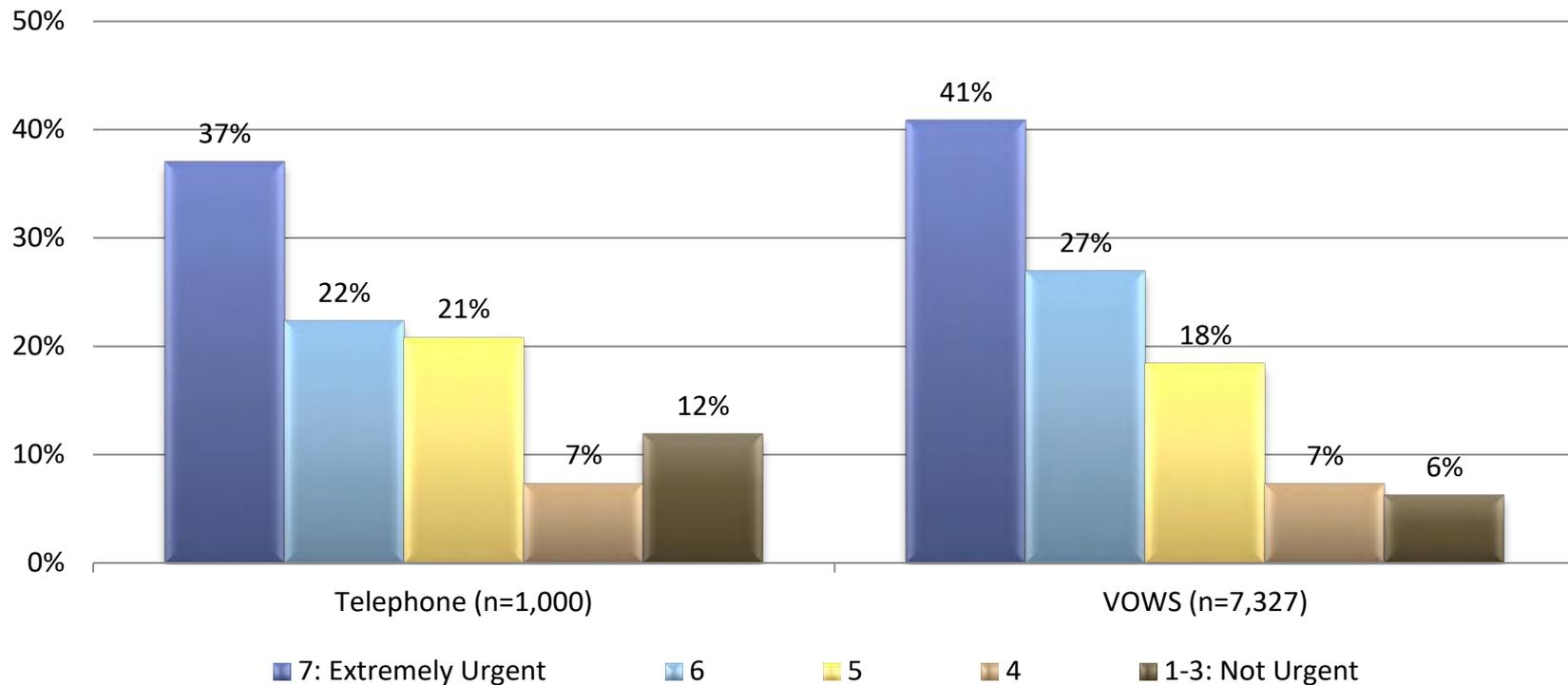
Most Important Issue

Most Important Issue in Current Legislative Session



F2. Of just the following five areas, which of those do you feel is the most important issue facing the current legislature?

Making Sure Transportation System Works Effectively

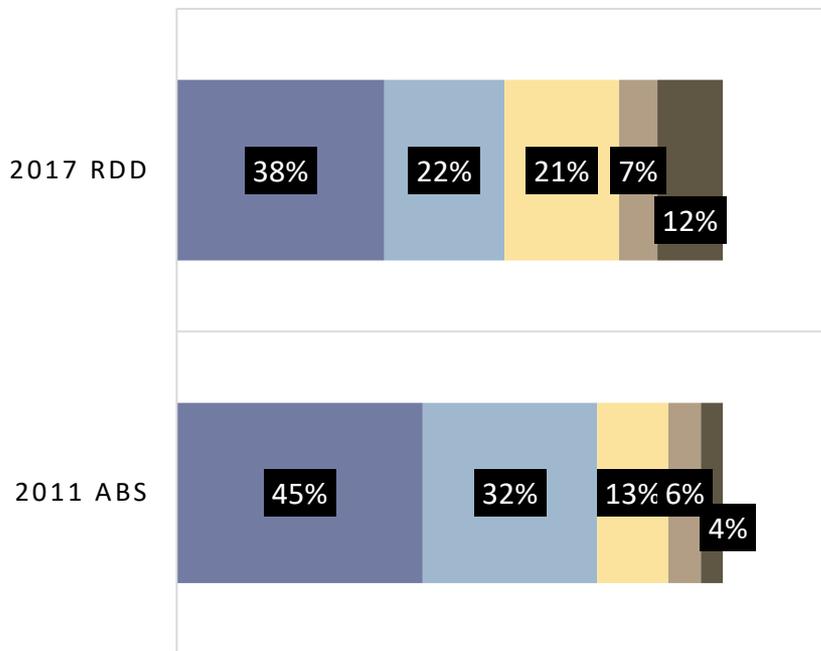


T1. How urgent do you feel it is to make sure Washington's transportation system WORKS EFFECTIVELY today and into the future?

Making Sure Transportation System Works Effectively

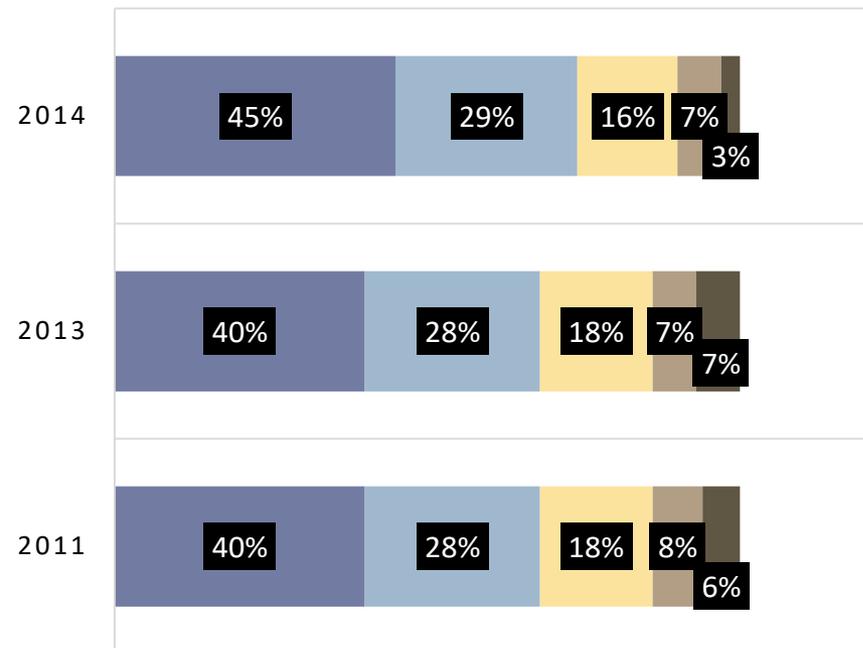
RANDOM STUDIES

■ 7:Ext Urgent ■ 6 ■ 5 ■ 4 ■ 3-1: Not Urgent



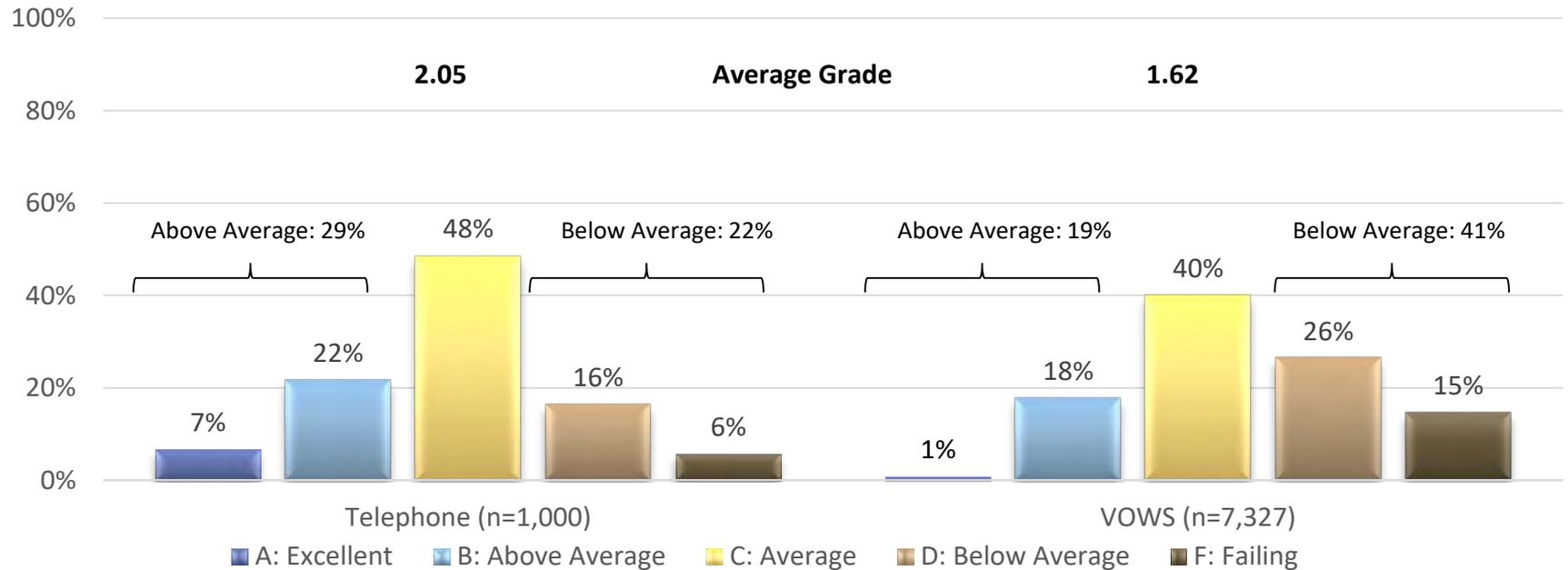
PANEL STUDIES

■ 7:Ext Urgent ■ 6 ■ 5 ■ 4 ■ 3-1: Not Urgent



T1. How urgent do you feel it is to make sure Washington's transportation system WORKS EFFECTIVELY today and into the future?

Overall Washington Transportation Grade

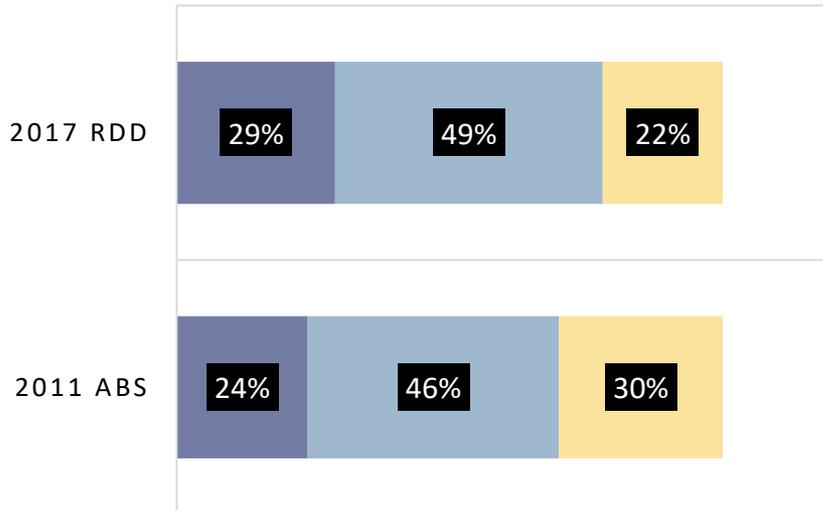


T2. Using a school grading scale where A equals Excellent, B equals Above Average, C equals Average, D equals Below Average and F equals Failing, how would you rate Washington's transportation system OVERALL on an A to F scale?

Overall Washington Transportation Grade

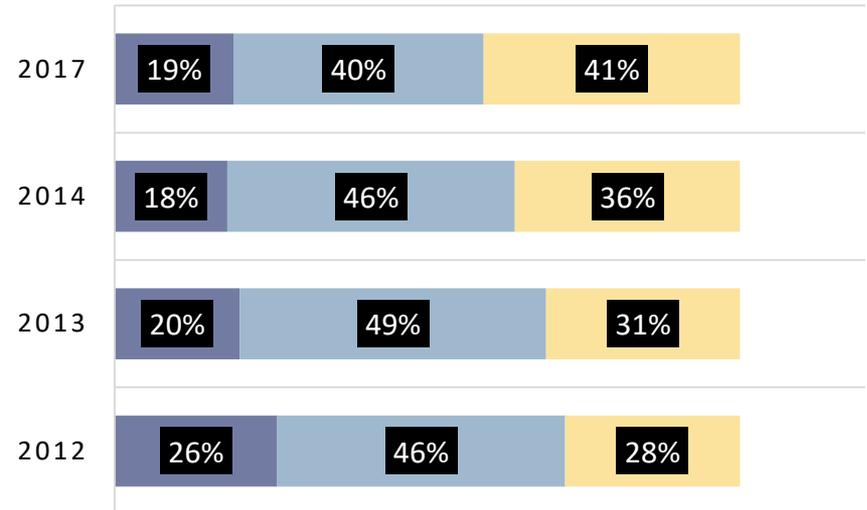
RANDOM STUDIES

■ Above ■ Average ■ Below



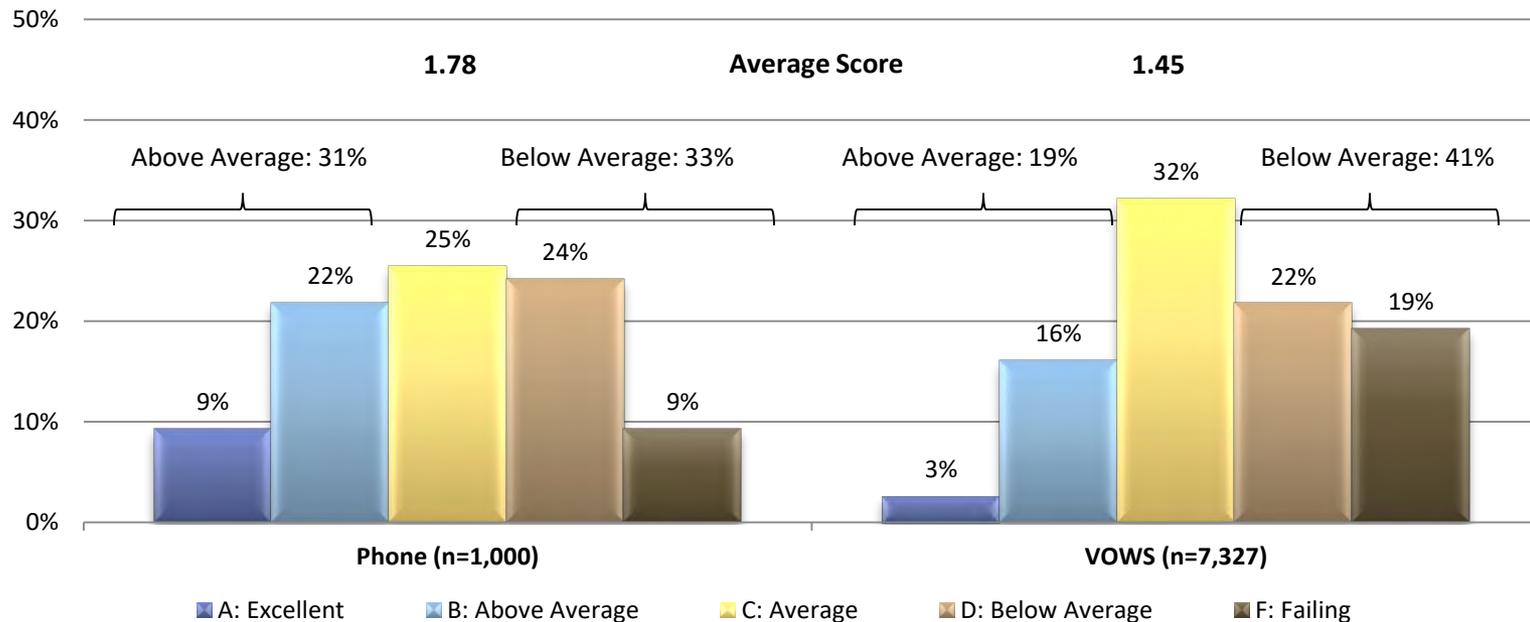
PANEL STUDIES

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T2. Using a school grading scale where A equals Excellent, B equals Above Average, C equals Average, D equals Below Average and F equals Failing, how would you rate Washington's transportation system OVERALL on an A to F scale?

Fair Share of Funding

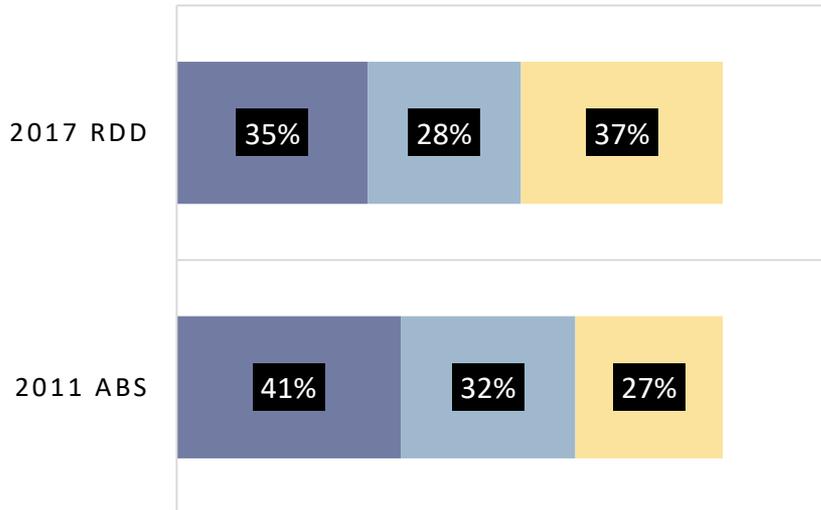


T3. Again, using an A through F grading scale, what grade would you give the state for making sure your area of the state gets a fair share of transportation funding?

Fair Share of Funding

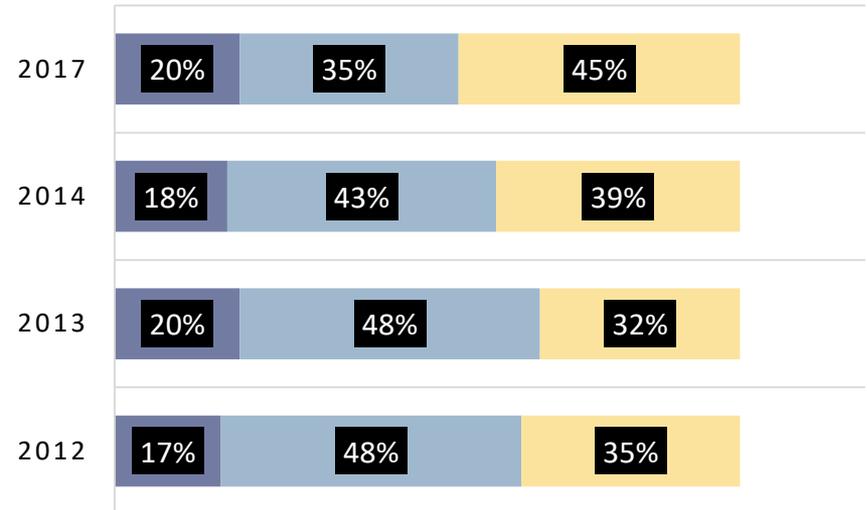
RANDOM STUDIES

■ Above ■ Average ■ Below



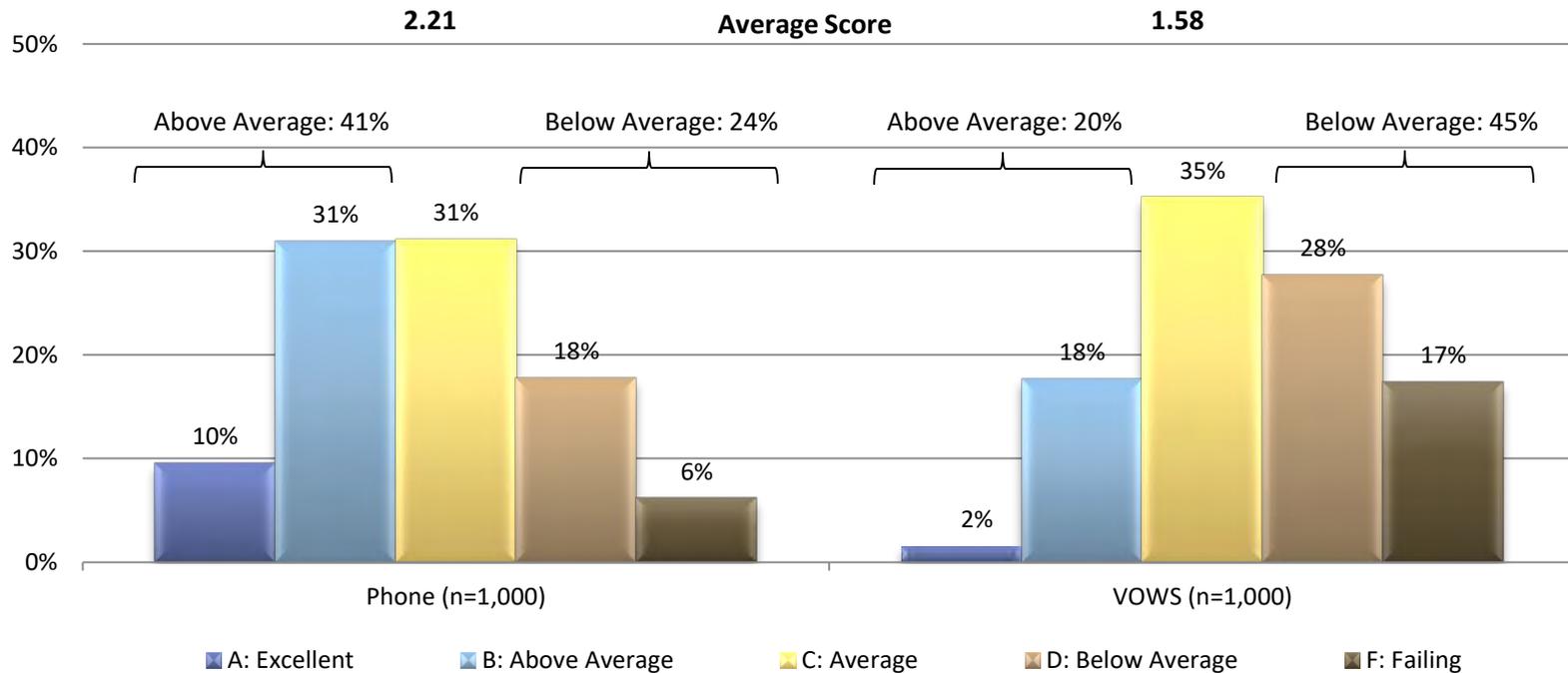
PANEL STUDIES

■ Above ■ Average ■ Below



T3. Again, using an A through F grading scale, what grade would you give the state for making sure your area of the state gets a fair share of transportation funding?

Local Transportation System Grade



T4. Using the same A through F grading scale, what grade would you give the transportation system in your local area - that is in your city or town and the areas immediately surrounding it?

Local Transportation System Grade

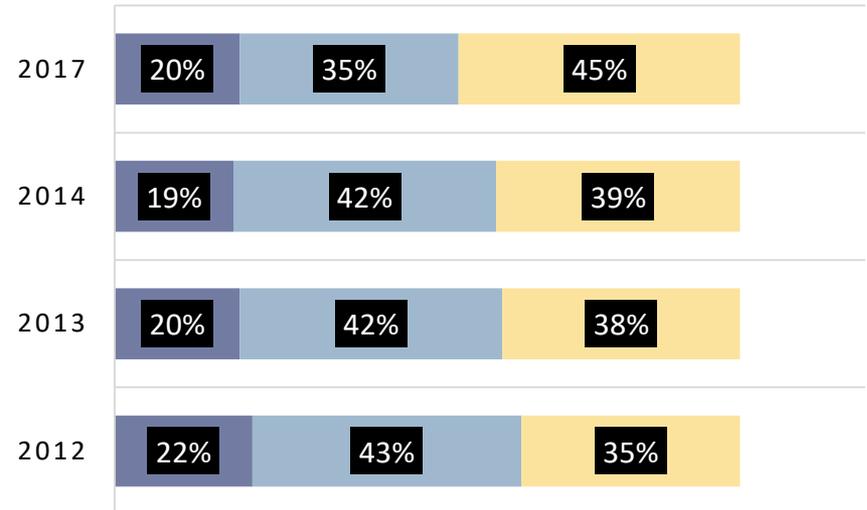
RANDOM STUDIES

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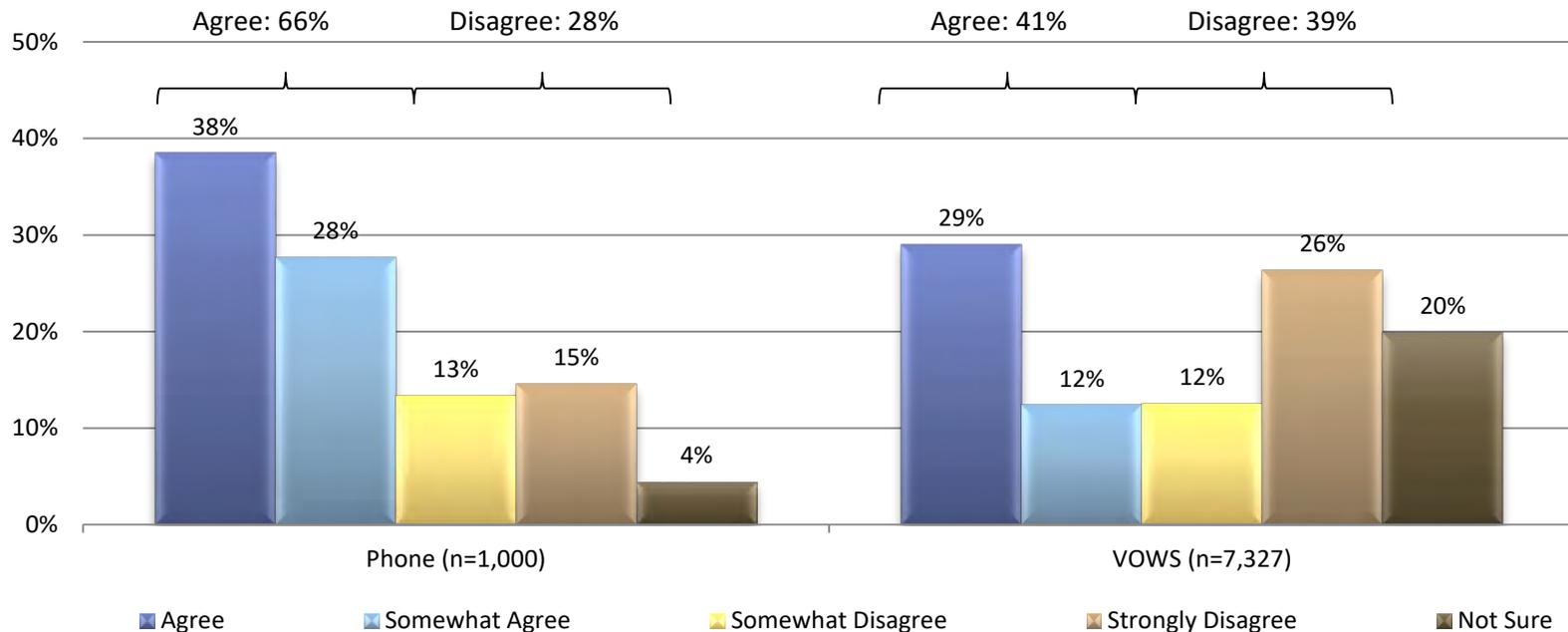
PANEL STUDIES

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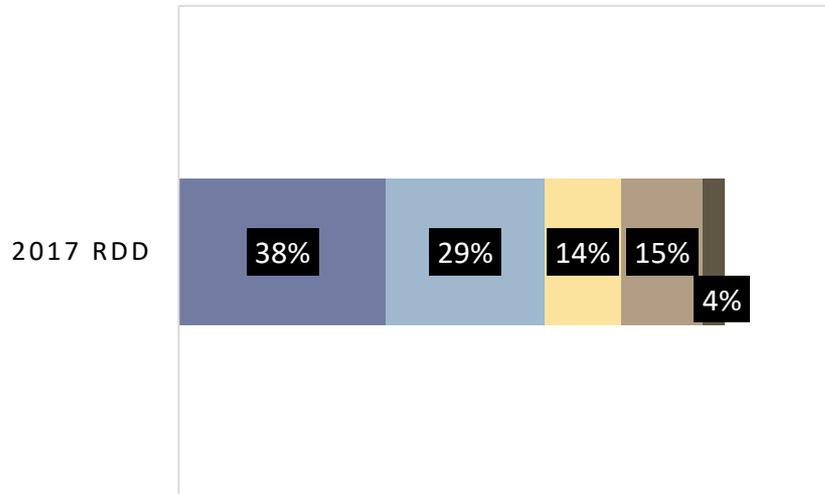
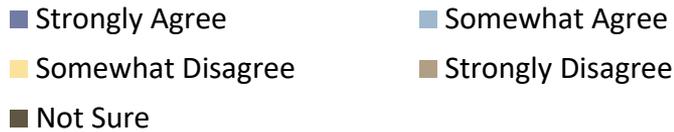
Washington State Needs Additional Revenue



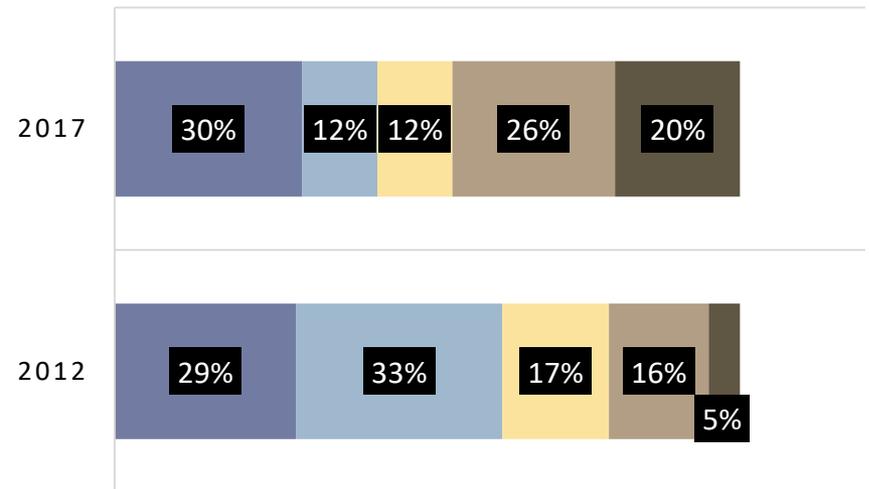
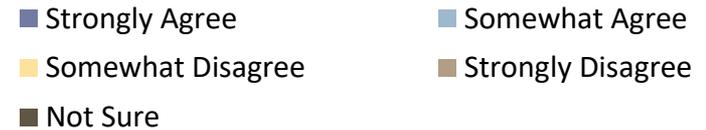
T5. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Washington State needs additional revenue to keep our transportation system safe, effective and properly maintained?

Washington State Needs Additional Revenue

RANDOM STUDIES

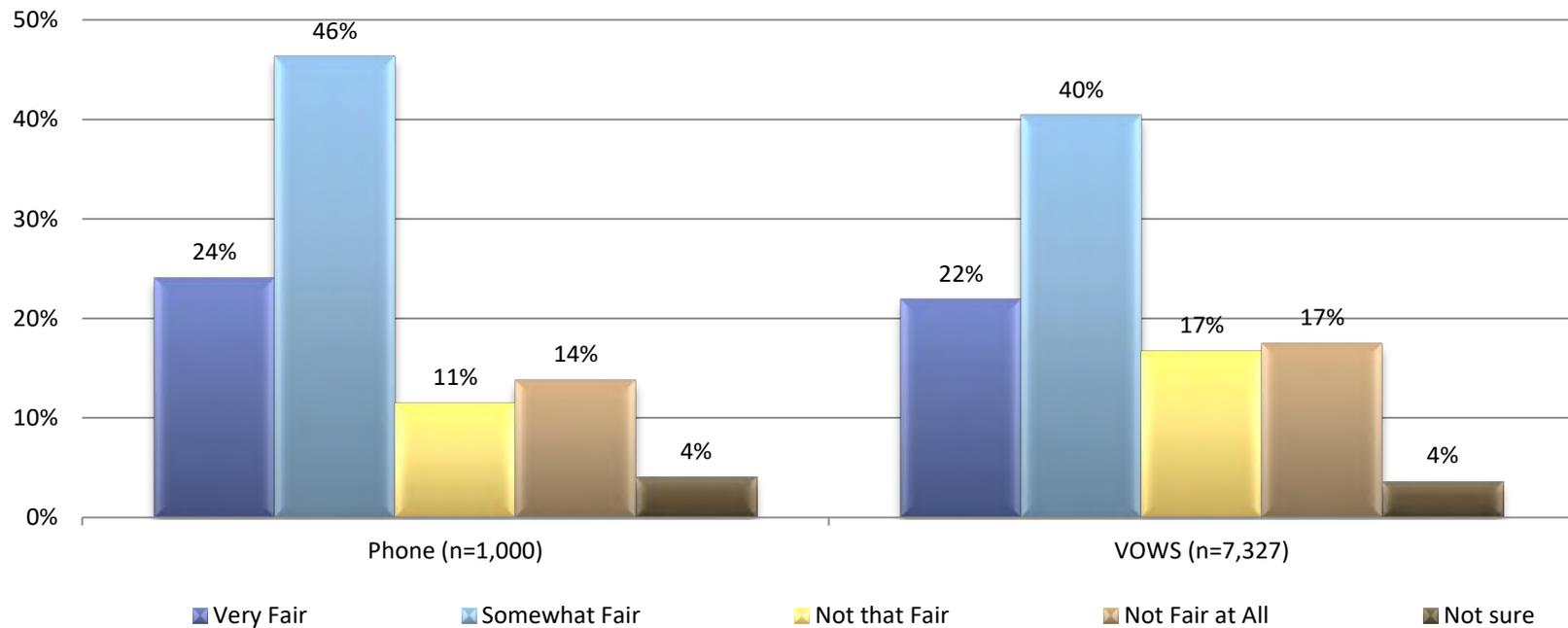


PANEL STUDIES



T5. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Washington State needs additional revenue to keep our transportation system safe, effective and properly maintained?

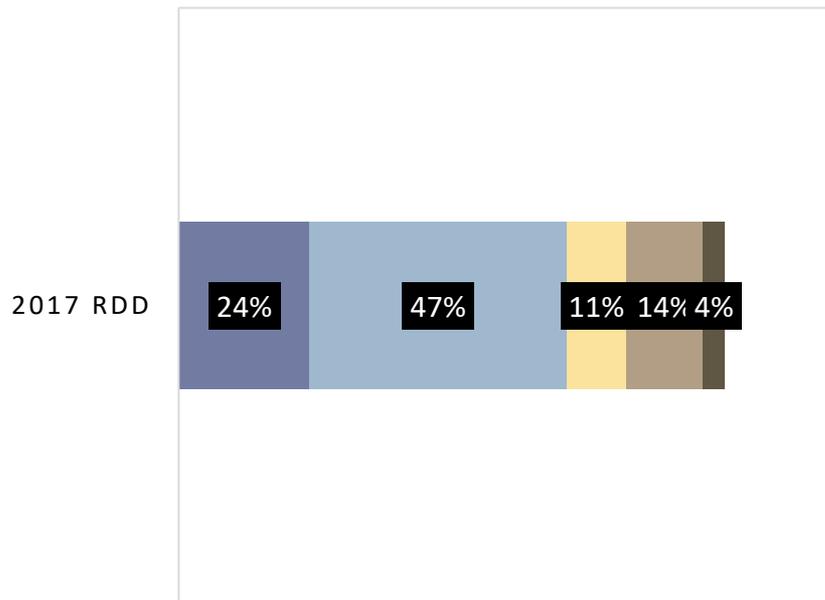
Gas Tax Fairness



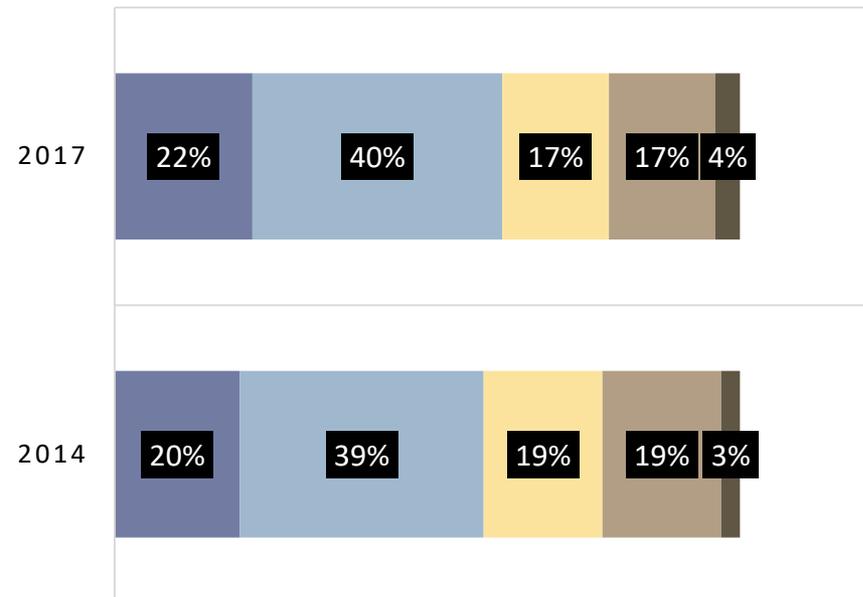
T6. Currently the transportation system is funded by a per gallon gas tax. Would you say using the gas tax to fund transportation is...

Gas Tax Fairness

RANDOM STUDIES

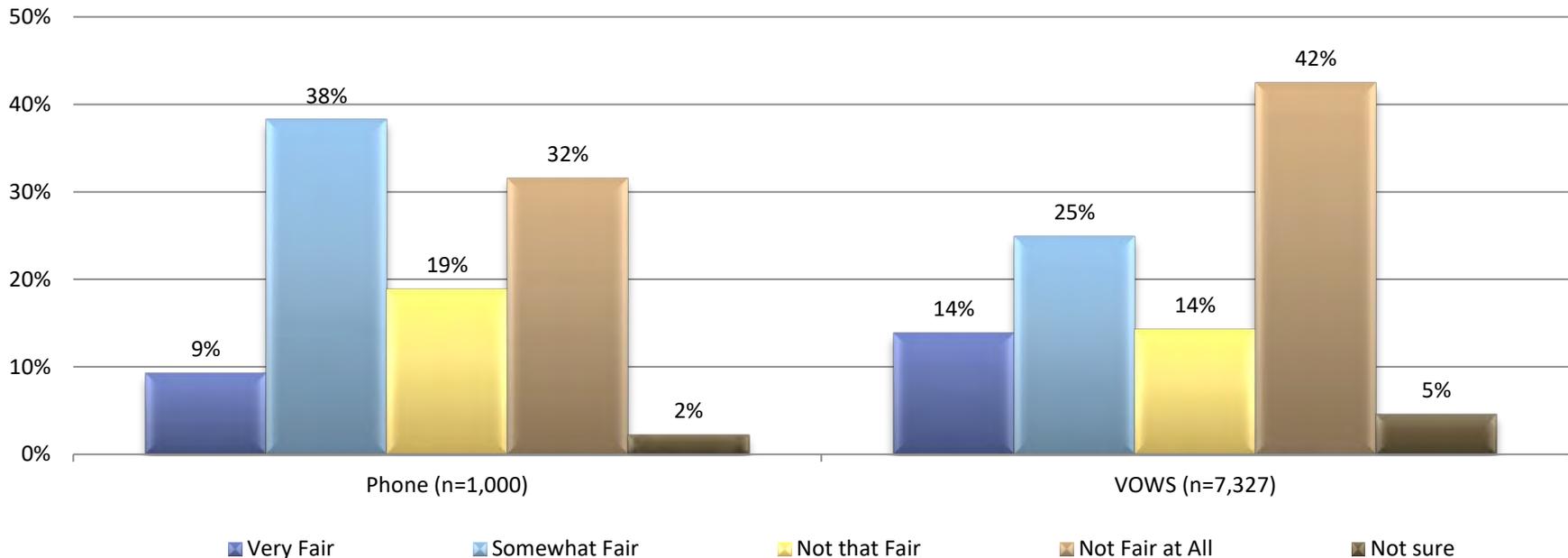


PANEL STUDIES



T6. Currently the transportation system is funded by a per gallon gas tax. Would you say using the gas tax to fund transportation is...

Road Usage Charge Fairness

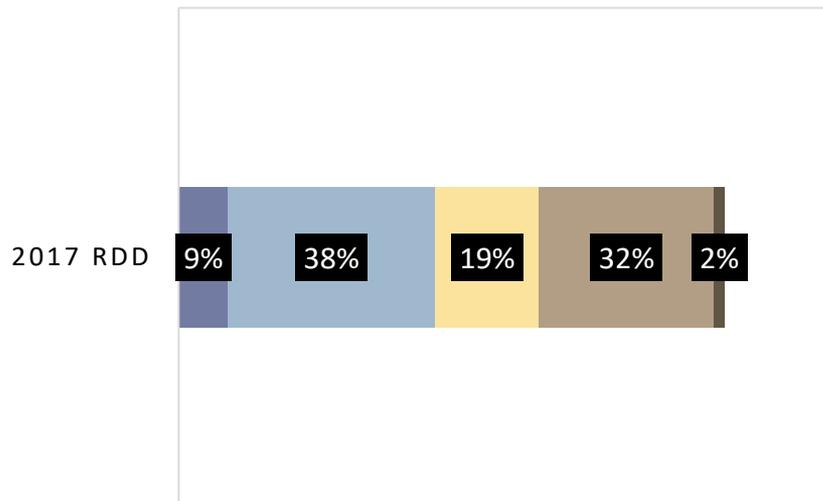
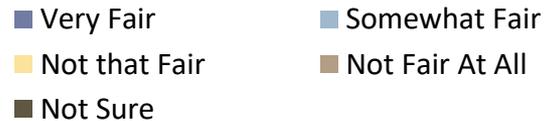


T7. A road usage charge is a different way to fund transportation. It would replace the gas tax and charge drivers by the miles driven instead of by the gallons used, resulting in all drivers paying the same amount per mile for their use of the road, regardless of their vehicle's Miles Per Gallon

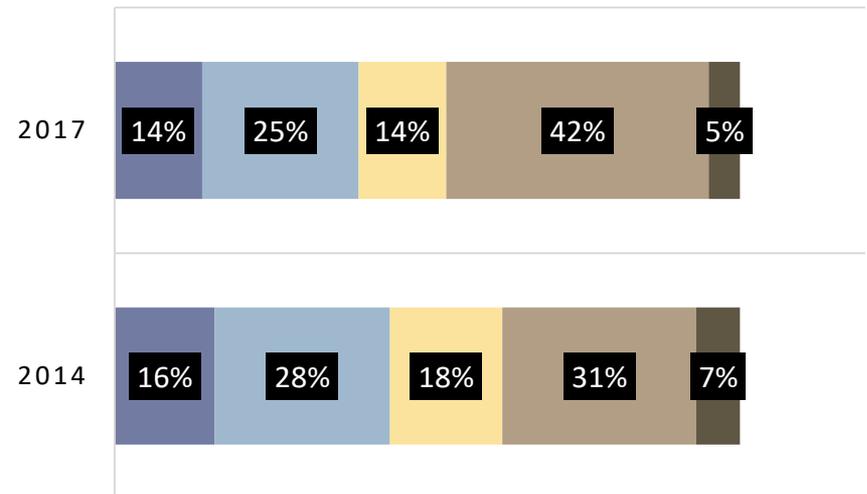
Knowing this, would you say road usage charge is ...

Road Usage Charge Fairness

RANDOM STUDIES



PANEL STUDIES

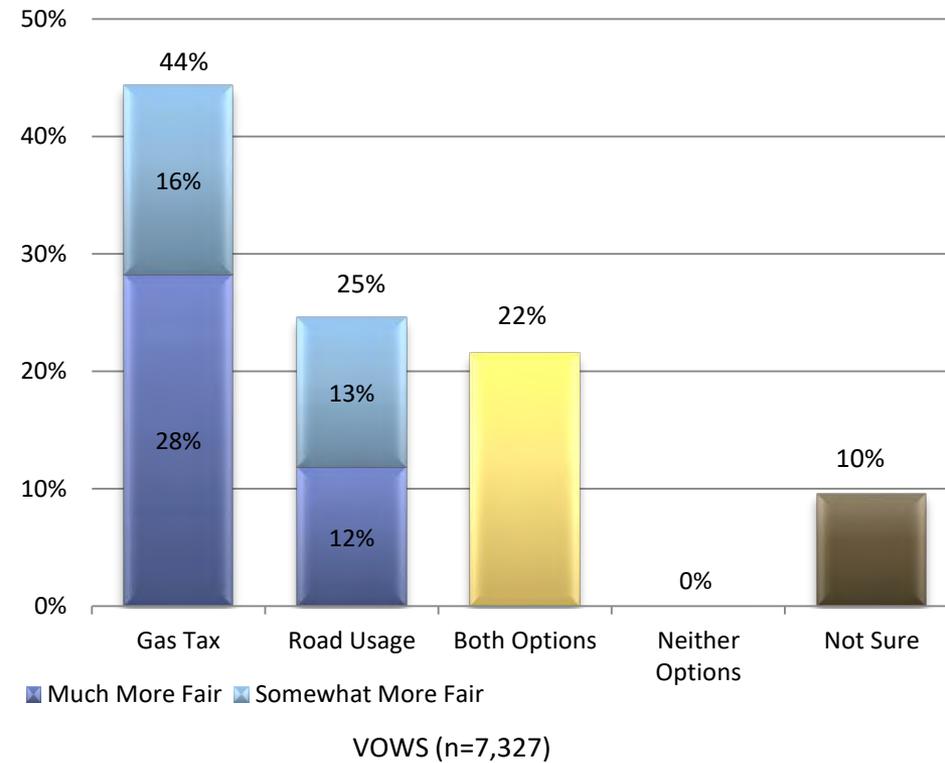
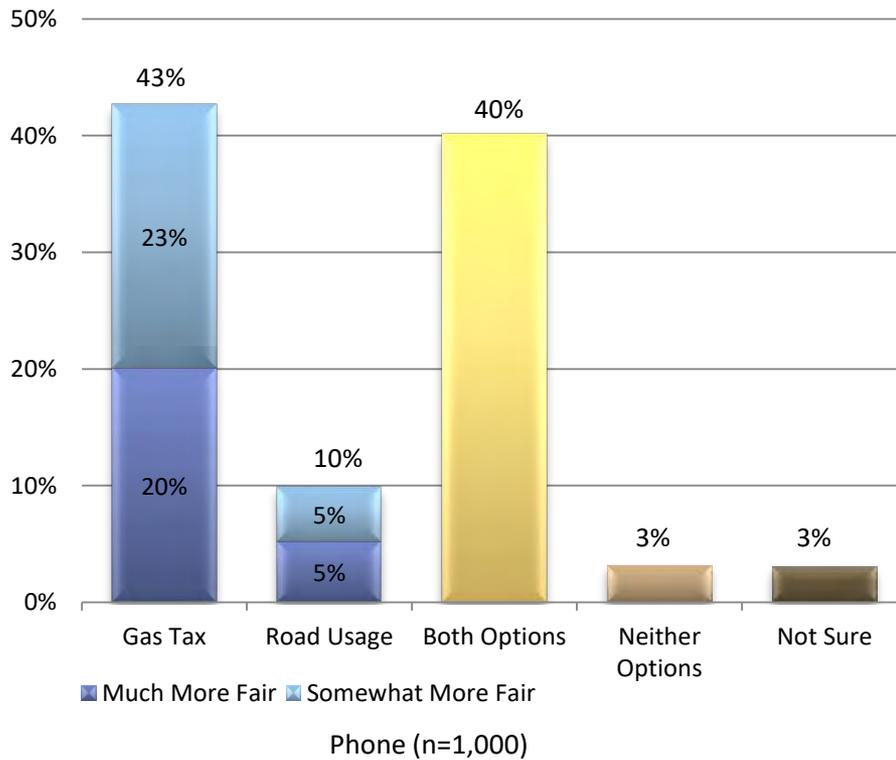


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Knowing this, would you say road usage charge is ...

Gas Tax vs. Road Usage Charge

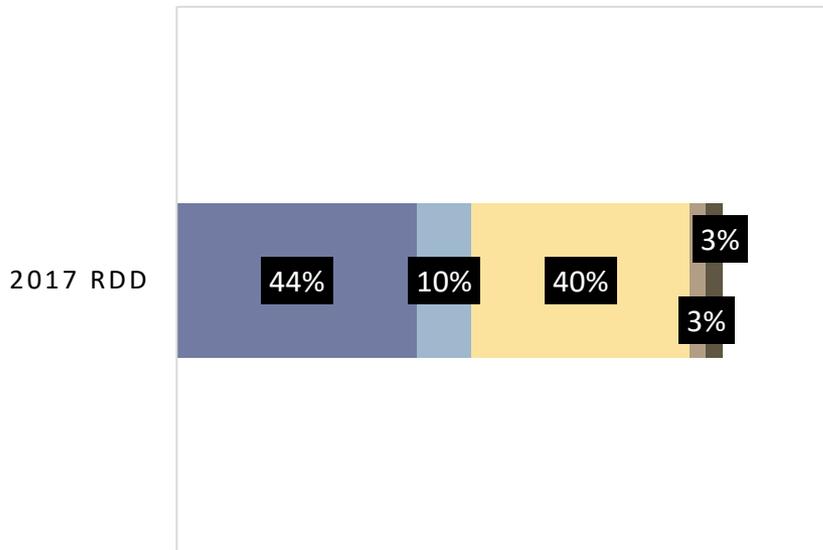
Gas Tax vs. Road Usage Charge



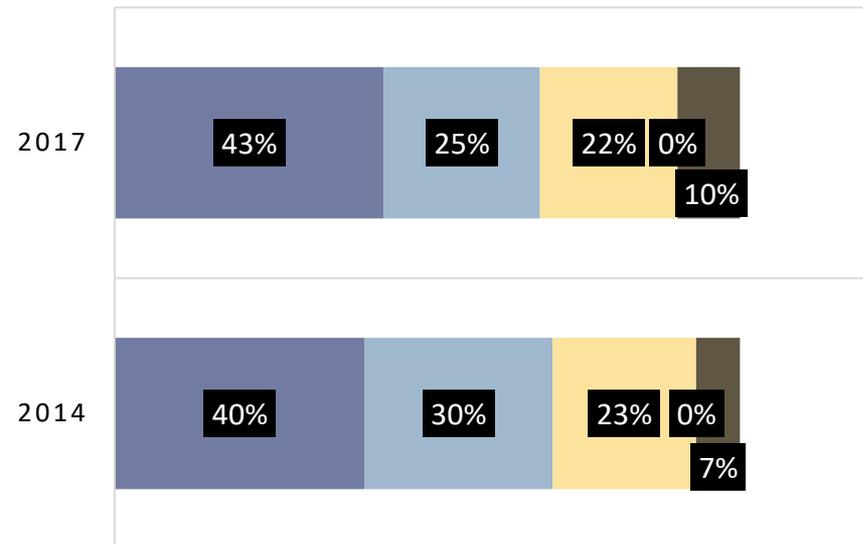
T8. Which transportation funding approach do you think is more fair?

Which Is More Fairness

RANDOM STUDIES

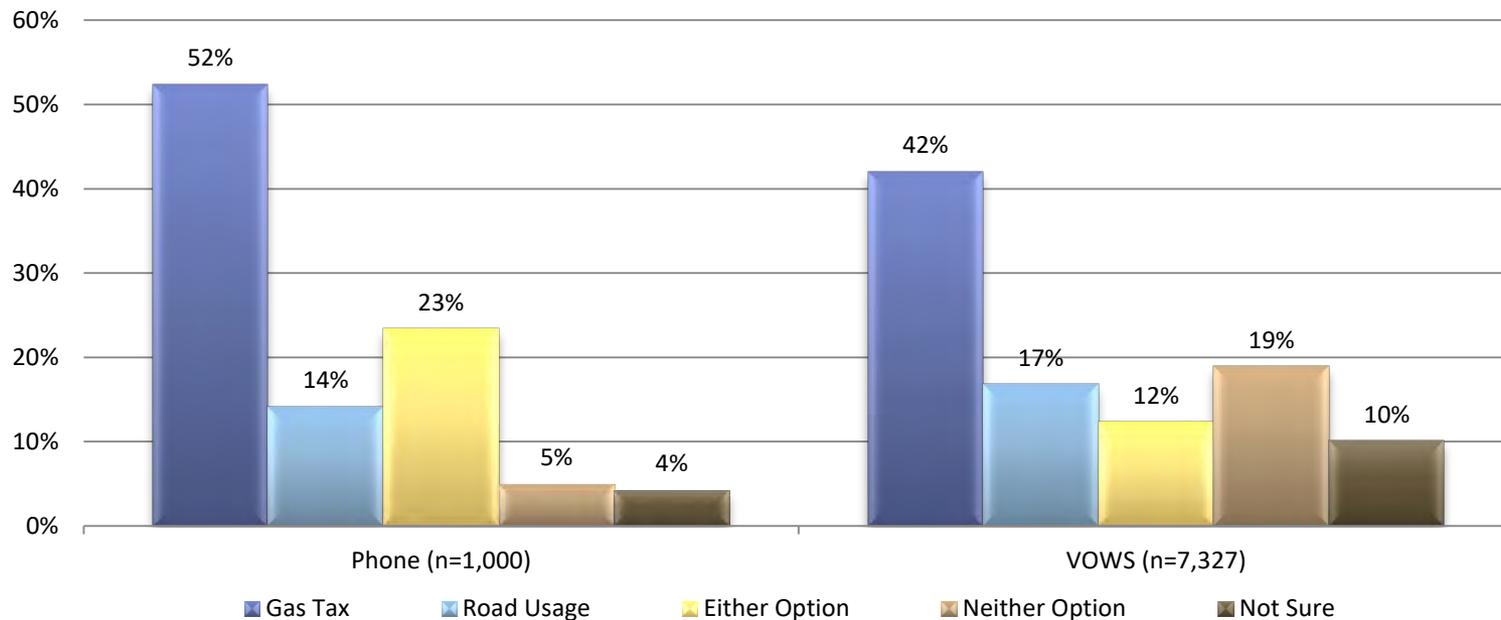


PANEL STUDIES



T8. Which transportation funding approach do you think is more fair?

Gas Tax vs. Road Usage Charge Preference



T9. Fairness aside, to fund transportation would you prefer ?

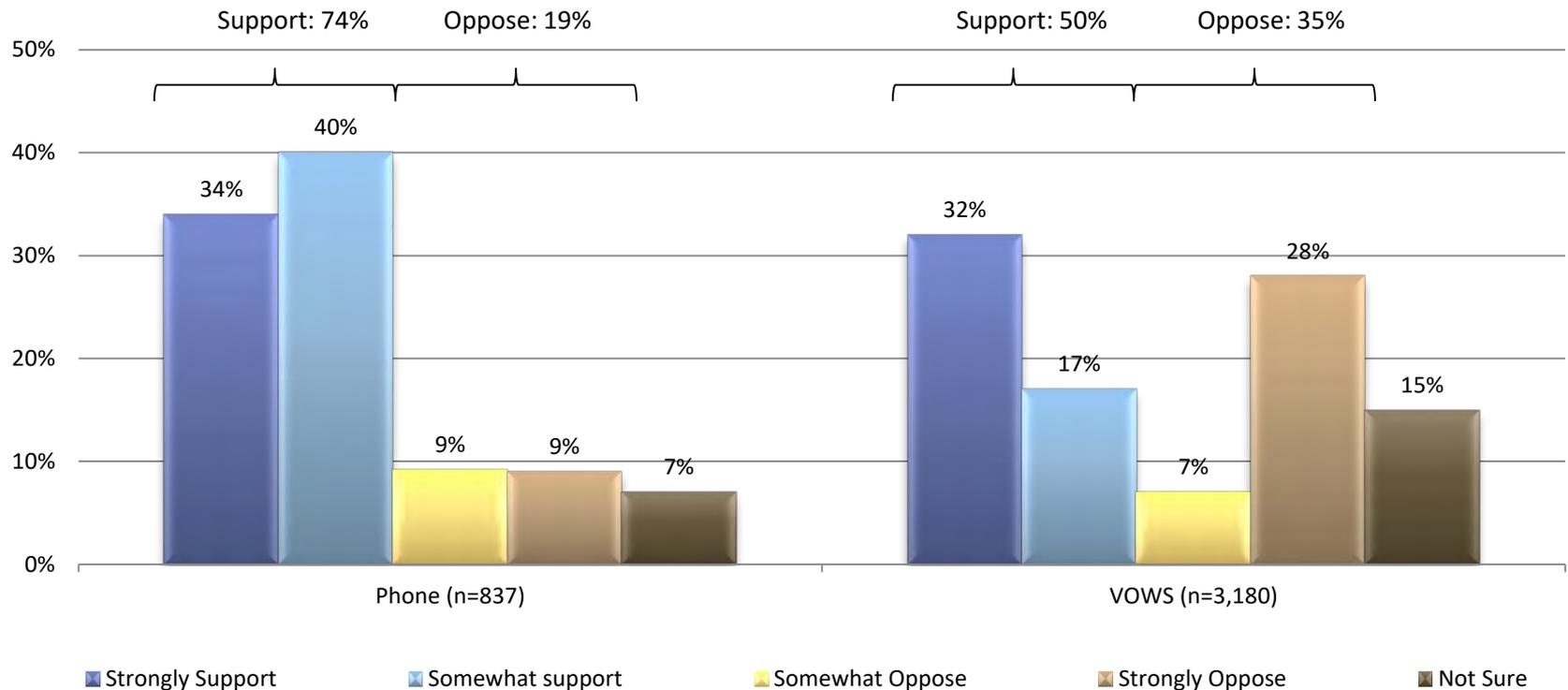
How Important Is...

Statement	2017 Phone (n=1,000)	2011 ABD (n=5,518)	2017 VOWS (n=7,327)	2013 VOWS (n=5,673)
Maintaining and Repairing Existing Roads, Highways ,and Bridges	83%	85%	89%	84%
Making Sure Rural and Mountain Roads Remain Open Year-Round	61%	44%	44%	34%
Expanding Public Transit Services (Vanpools, Dial-a-Ride)	58%	51%	55%	49%
Operating and Maintaining Washington's Ferry System	56%	46%	43%	40%
Increasing Law Enforcement and Public Safety Efforts on WA Highways	54%	38%	40%	29%
Widening and Building More Roads and Highways	51%	51%	51%	40%
Building or Improving Sidewalks	49%	37%	40%	27%
Improving Regional Airports	40%	23%	23%	13%
Building Bike Lanes	38%	30%	25%	23%

T10-18. Next, I want to read you several short statements and please let me know how important each is to you on a five-point scale, where 1 is not at all important and 5 is extremely important. On a 1 to 5 scale, how important is...

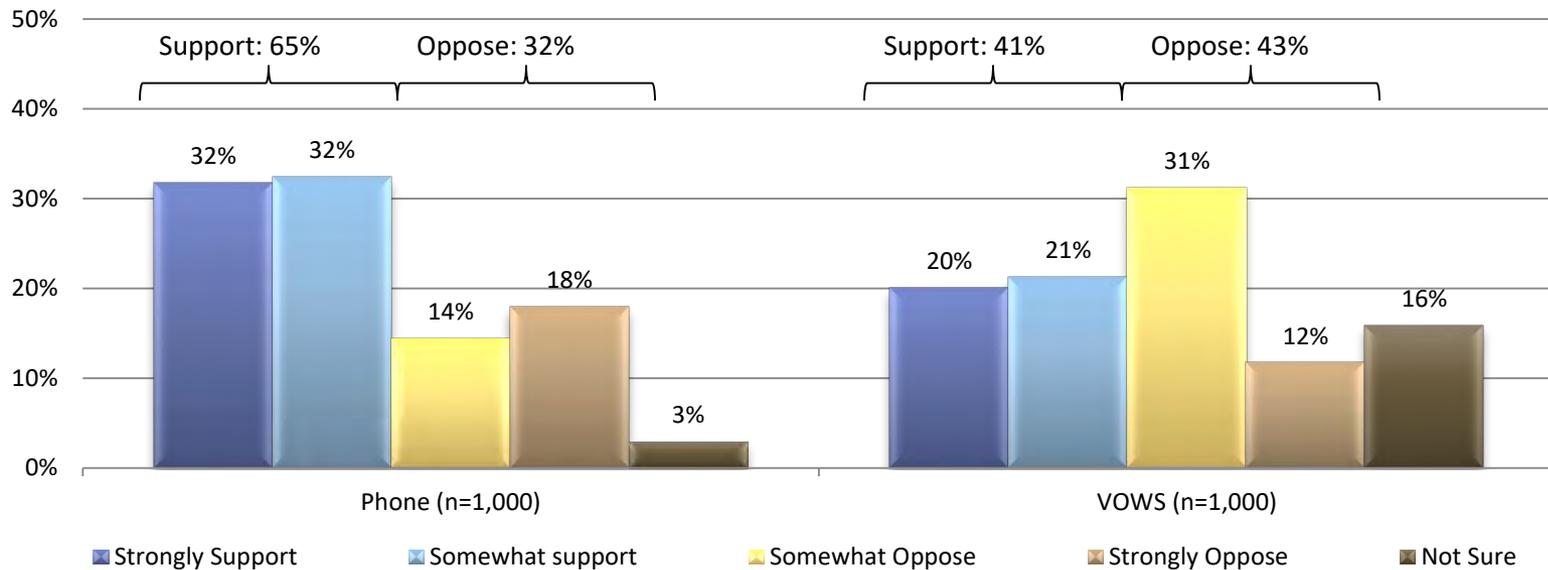
Public Transit Funding Support

Support for More Funding for Public Transit



T19. Currently, **public transit** operations are funded with federal and local tax dollars but not with State gas taxes. Knowing this, do you support or oppose Washington State providing more state transportation funding to help fund public transit services?

Support for Using Gas Tax to Fund Washington’s Ferry System

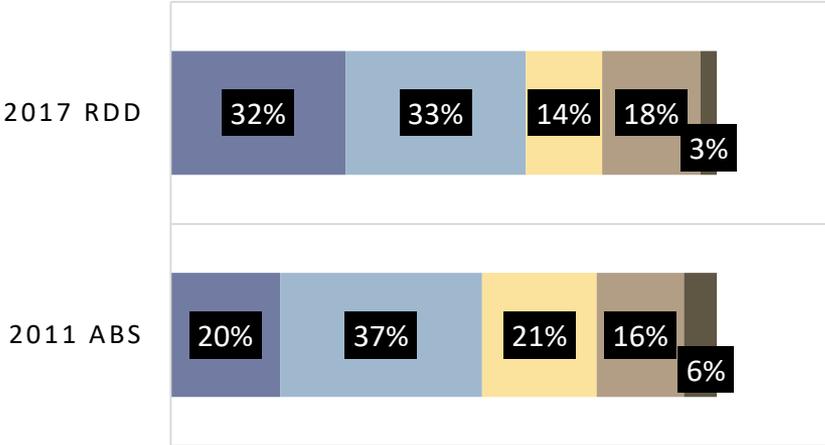


T20. Currently, about 70% of the daily operational costs of the Washington State Ferries are covered by fares paid by the riders. The remaining 30% is covered by gas tax revenues. Gas tax revenues also cover the costs of ferry boats and terminals. Knowing this, do you support or oppose using state gas tax revenues to fund the Washington State Ferry System?

Support for Using Gas Tax to Fund Washington’s Ferry System

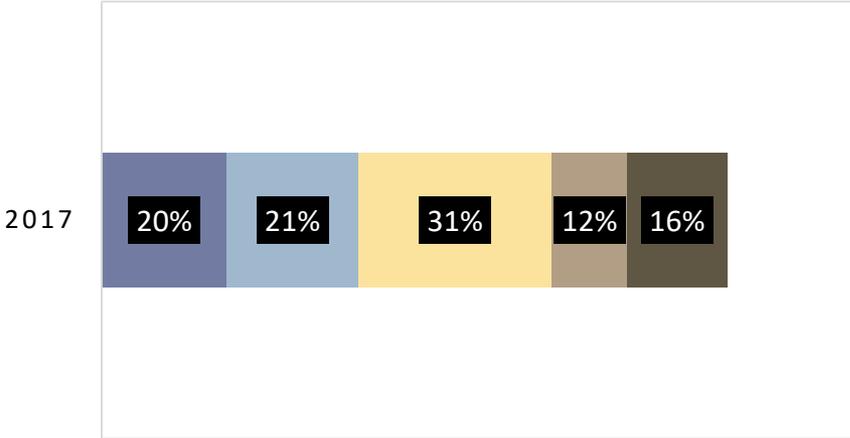
RANDOM STUDIES

- Strongly Support
- Somewhat Support
- Somewhat Oppose
- Strongly Oppose
- Not Sure



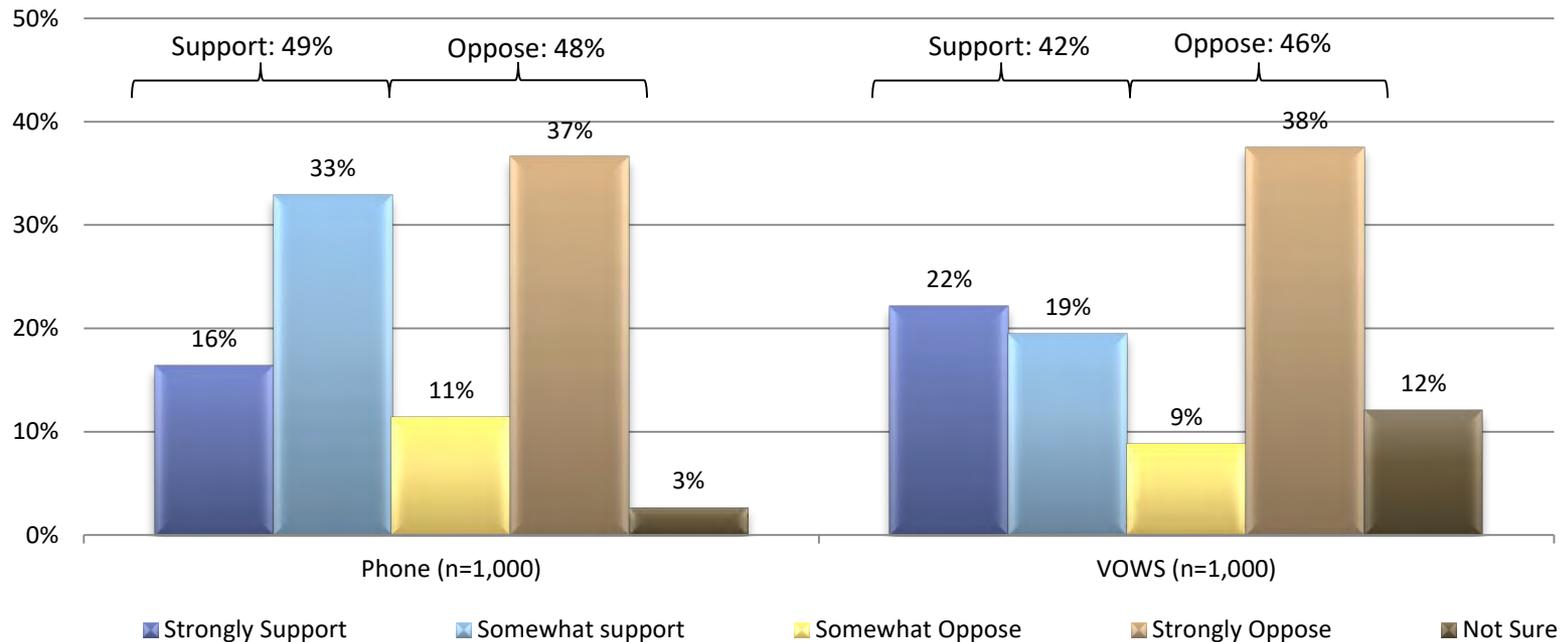
PANEL STUDIES

- Strongly Support
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- Strongly Oppose
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T20. Currently, about 70% of the daily operational costs of the Washington State Ferries are covered by fares paid by the riders. The remaining 30% is covered by gas tax revenues. Gas tax revenues also cover the costs of ferry boats and terminals. Knowing this, do you support or oppose using state gas tax revenues to fund the Washington State Ferry System?

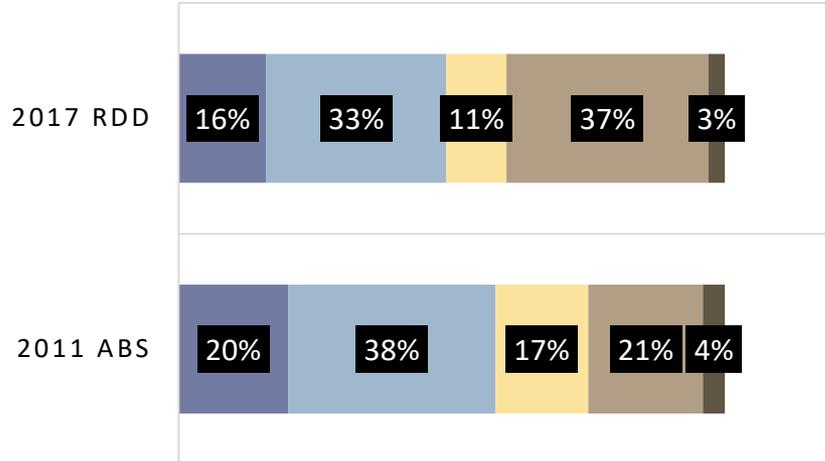
Support for Tolling



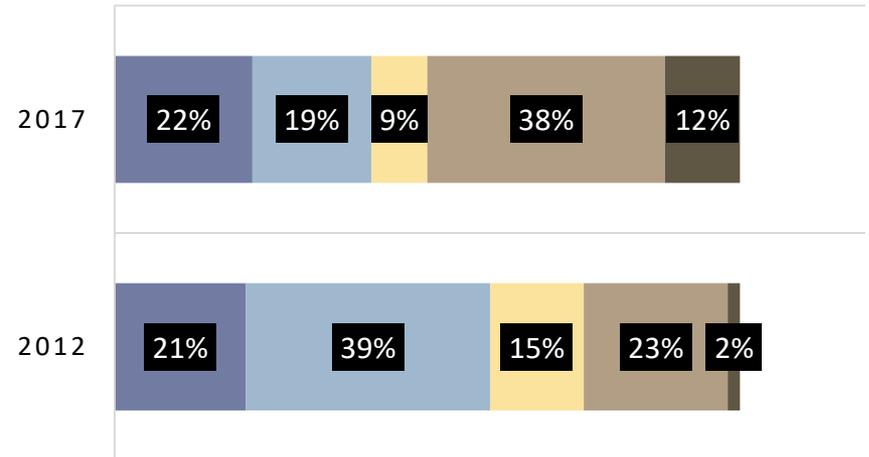
T21. The next couple of questions are about tolling, that is, charging drivers a fee on some major highways and bridges. In general, do you support or oppose tolling as a way to help pay for new state transportation projects?

Support for Tolling

RANDOM STUDIES

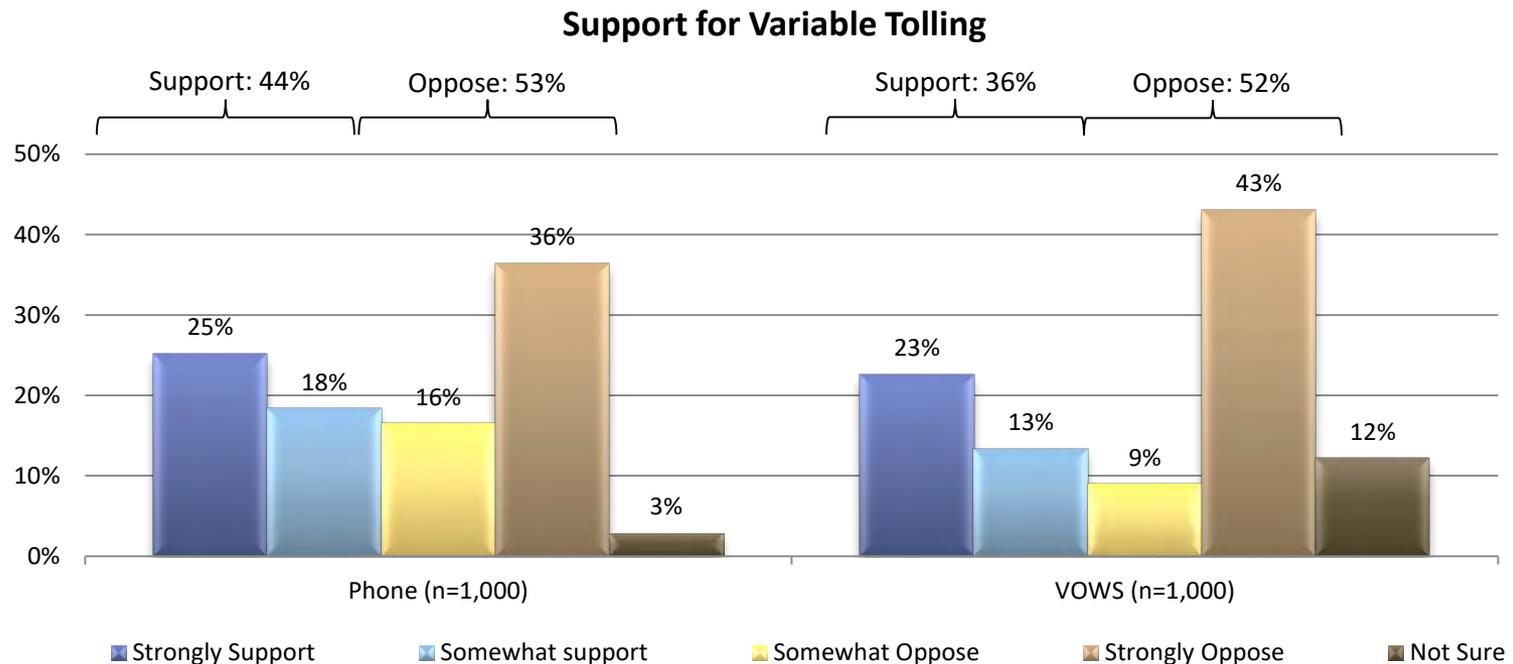


PANEL STUDIES



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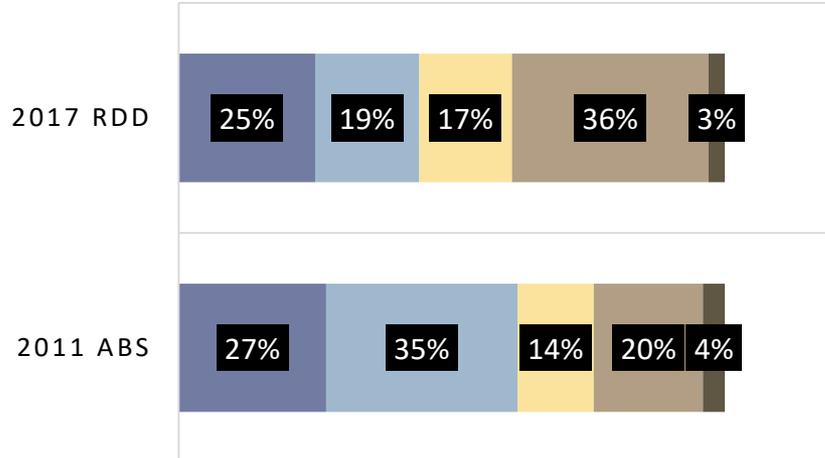
Support for Variable Tolling



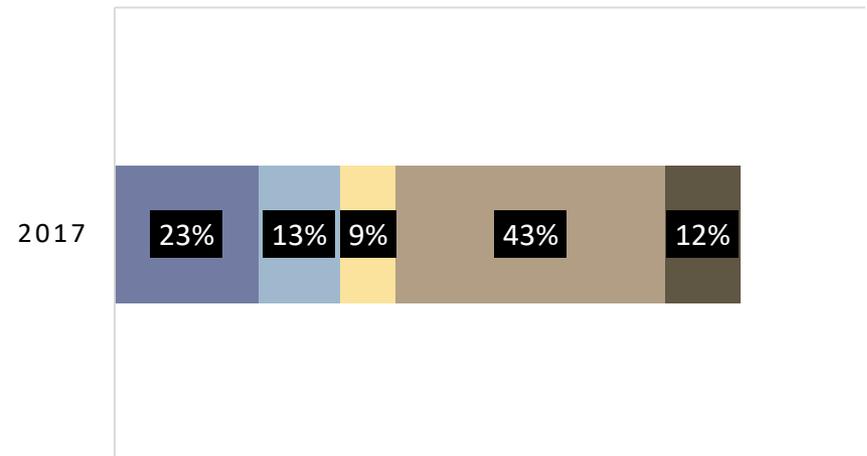
T22. Toll rates that change based on time of day are known as variable tolls. This approach to tolling helps reduce congestion by charging a higher toll during the busiest hours and a lower toll during less-busy hours. In general, do you support or oppose the concept of variable tolling on major state highways in heavily congested areas?

Support for Variable Tolling

RANDOM STUDIES

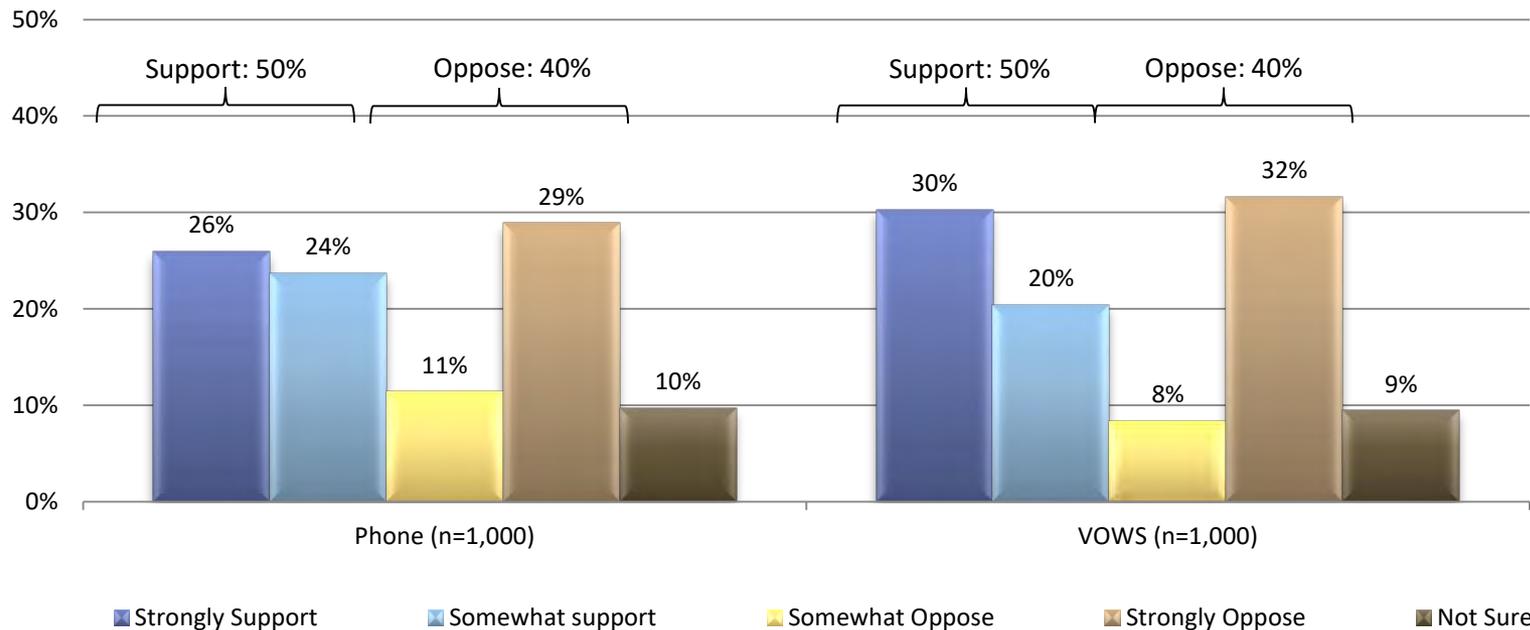


PANEL STUDIES



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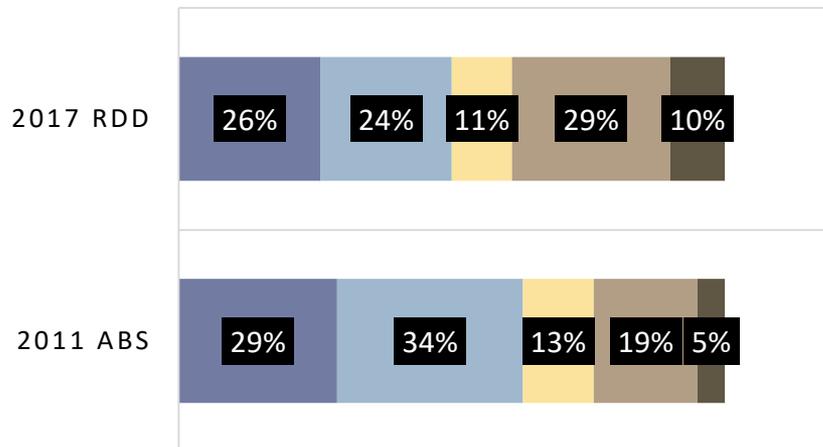
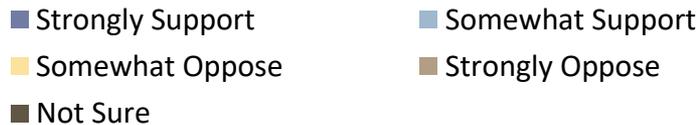
Support for Express Toll Lanes



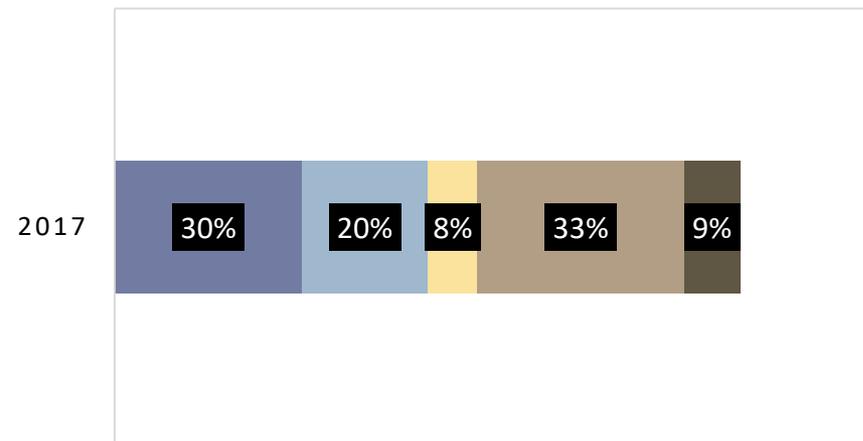
T23. Express Toll Lanes allow people traveling alone to pay a toll to use the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes. The express toll amount changes based on traffic speeds – slower speeds cause the toll to increase and faster speeds keep the toll low. In general, do you support or oppose allowing people traveling alone to pay an express toll to use the HOV lanes on major state highways in heavily congested areas?

Support for Express Toll Lanes

RANDOM STUDIES



PANEL STUDIES



T23. Express Toll Lanes allow people traveling alone to pay a toll to use the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes. The express toll amount changes based on traffic speeds – slower speeds cause the toll to increase and faster speeds keep the toll low. In general, do you support or oppose allowing people traveling alone to pay an express toll to use the HOV lanes on major state highways in heavily congested areas?

Share of Trips Using Various Modes

	Phone (n=1,000)	VOWS (n=7,327)
Driving alone	62%	61%
Carpooling	21%	15%
Walking	8%	8%
Public transit	7%	10%
Bicycle	2%	3%
Motorcycle	1%	3%

T24-T29. Please think about all the trips you personally made from home during a typical week last year such as going to work, running errands, or going to appointments. Approximately what percentage of those trips per week are done by...

Thank you!

Reema Griffith, WSTC

Frank Lynch, Abt SRBI

Bill Young, Research Assurance

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