Americans’ Attitudes Toward Walking and Creating Better Walking Communities

Poll conducted by Belden, Rusonello and Stewart for the Surface Transportation Policy Project. 800 adults 18 and over were contacted by telephone in October 2002; the sampling error is ±3.5 percentage points.
Q38. Please tell me which of the following statements describe you more: A) If it were possible, I would like to walk more throughout the day either to get to specific places or for exercise, or B) I prefer to drive my car wherever I go?
Americans Want Federal Funds to Support Walking

Should federal funds be used to make walking safer?

Q30. (Please tell me if you strongly favor, somewhat favor, or strongly oppose…) Increase federal spending on making sure people can safely walk and cross the street, even if this means less tax dollars go to building roads.

- Somewhat favor, 37%
- Strongly favor, 31%
- Somewhat oppose, 19%
- Strongly oppose, 9%

Q30. (Please tell me if you strongly favor, somewhat favor, or strongly oppose…) Increase federal spending on making sure people can safely walk and cross the street, even if this means less tax dollars go to building roads.
Q27. (Please tell me if you strongly favor, somewhat favor, or strongly oppose…) Use part of the transportation budget to design streets with sidewalks, safe crossing and other devices to reduce speeding in residential areas and make it safer to walk, even if this means driving more slowly.
Q25. (Please tell me if you strongly favor, somewhat favor, or strongly oppose…) Use part of the state transportation budget to create more sidewalks and stop signs in communities, to make it safer and easier for children to walk to school, even if this means less money to build new highways.

- Strongly favor, 41%
- Somewhat favor, 33%
- Strongly oppose, 13%
- Somewhat oppose, 9%
Q31. Which one of the following proposals is the best long term solution to reducing traffic in your state: build new roads, improve public transportation, such as trains, buses and light rail, or develop communities where people do not have to drive long distances to work or shop?