

# Transportation for America

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Beth Osborne

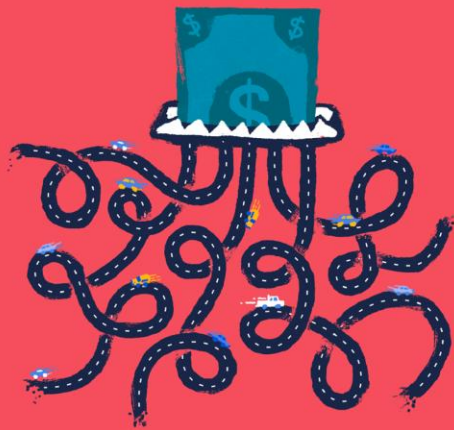
[t4america.org](http://t4america.org) // [@t4america](https://twitter.com/t4america)

**Transportation for America** is a national non-profit working to create a transportation system that safely and affordably connects everyone to jobs, services, and opportunities through diverse travel options.

PRINCIPLE #2

## Fix It First

If your house has a leaky roof, you fix that before remodeling your kitchen. The federal transportation program should do the same and prioritize existing maintenance needs ahead of building new things which require decades of additional repair costs.



PRINCIPLE #1

## Design for Safety Over Speed

Any serious effort to reduce deaths on our streets and roads requires slower speeds. Federal funding should require approaches and street designs that put safety first.



PRINCIPLE #3

## Invest in the Rest

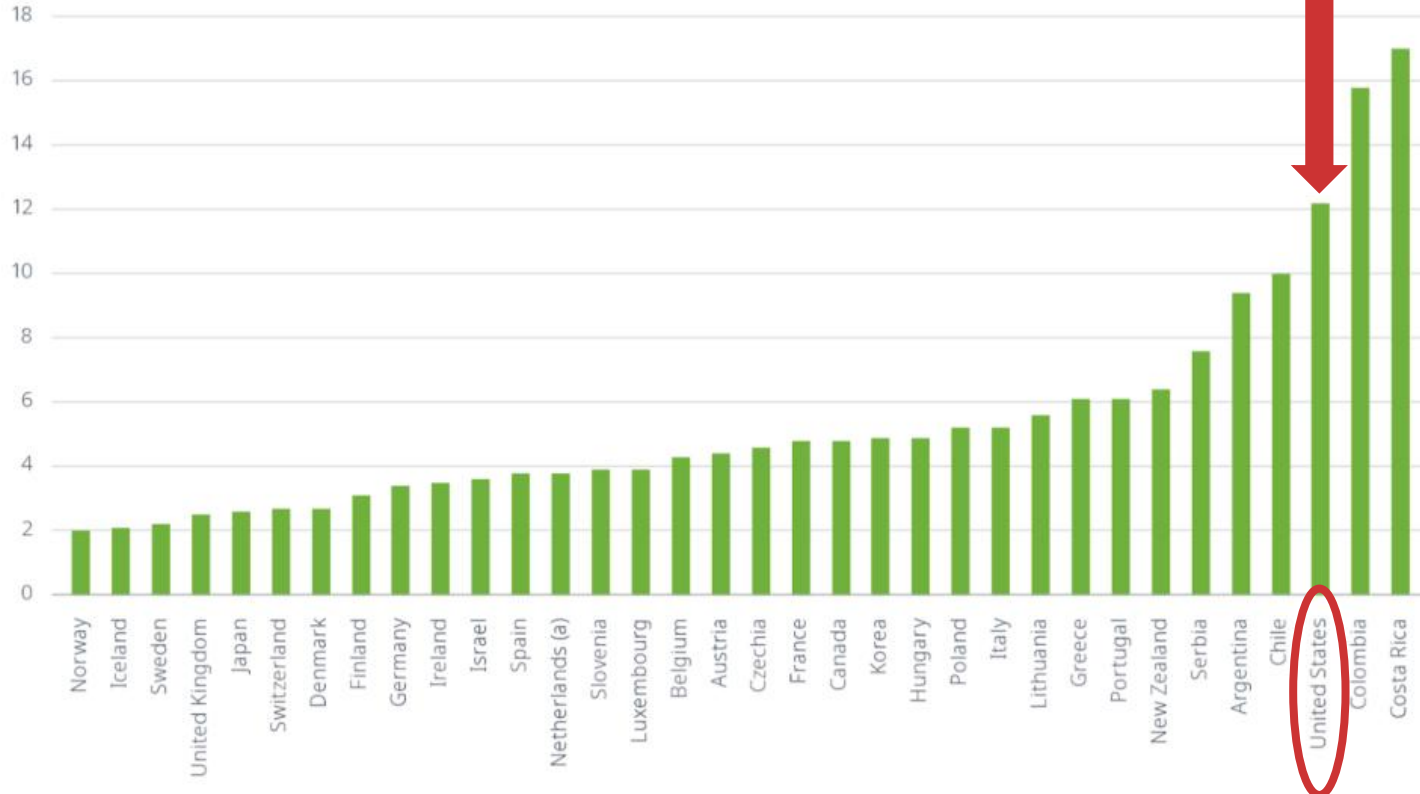
For 60 years we've invested hundreds of billions of dollars in highways. Now it's time to **invest in the rest** to create a complete transportation network so more Americans can safely travel by foot, bike, bus, or train.



# A program failing to deliver on **safety**

Figure 6:

**Road fatalities per 100 000 inhabitants, 2023**

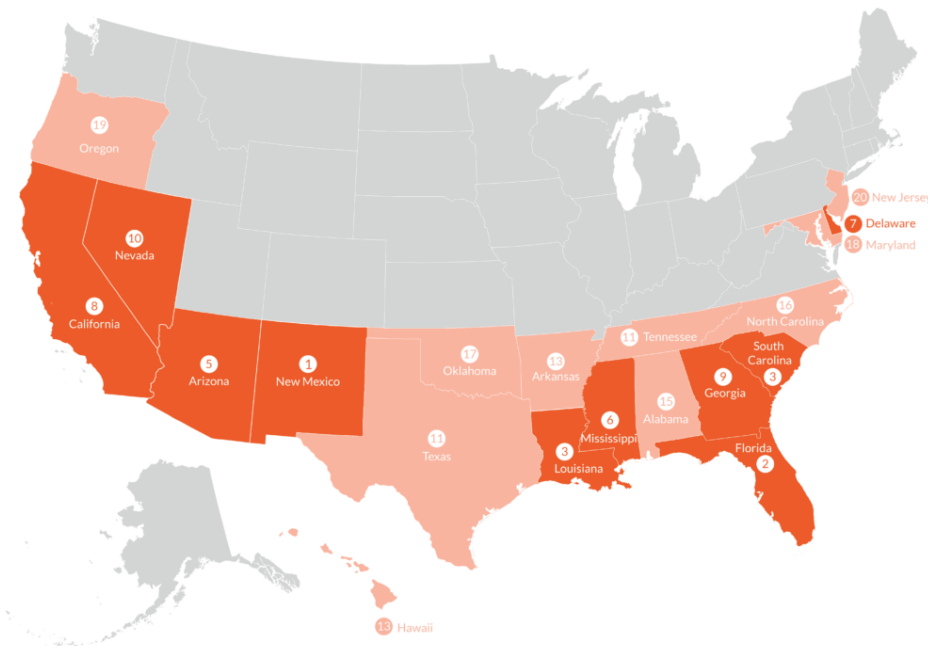


# A program failing to deliver on **safety**

8,000

## The top 20 most deadly states for people walking

By number of deaths per 100,000 people, 2018-2022



7,522

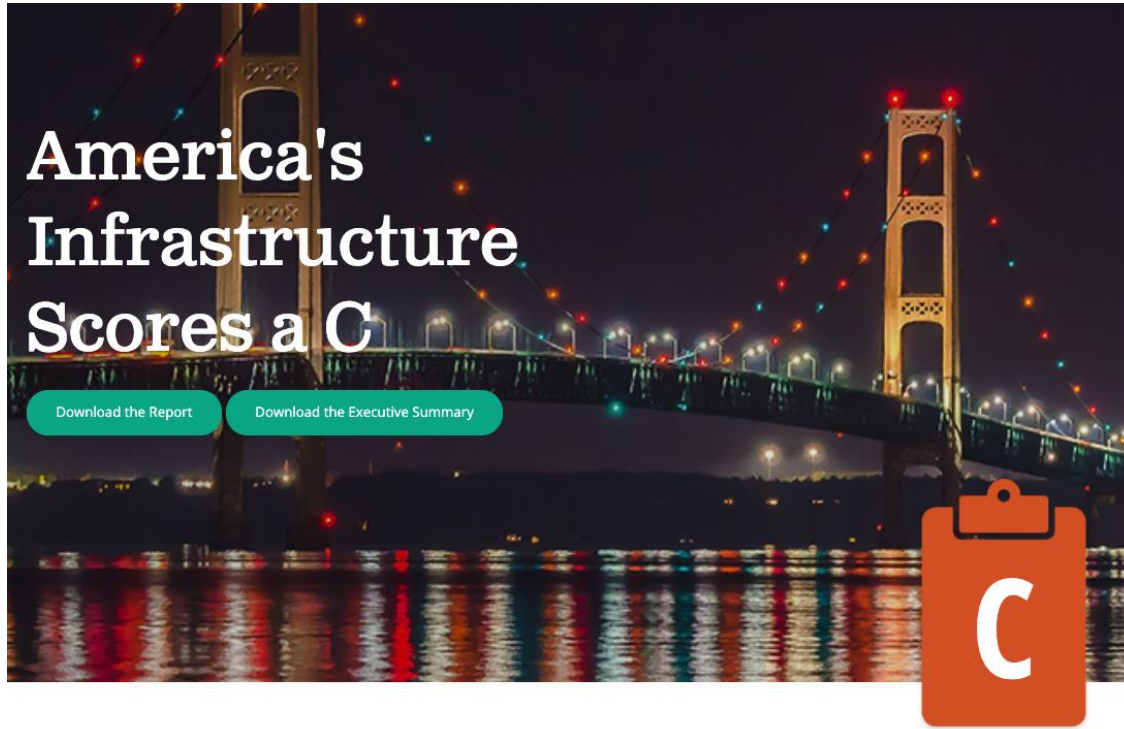
## The top 20 most deadly metro areas for pedestrians

By number of deaths per 100,000 people, 2018-2022



U.S. pedestrian deaths (2010-2022)

# Also failing to deliver on **repair**



**Roads:**  
D in 2001  
D+ in 2025

**Bridges:**  
C in 2005  
C in 2025

ASCE 2025 Report Card: We should “dedicate resources to preserving a state of good repair, because **no nation can build its way out of congestion.**”

# And congestion

Freeway capacity grew faster than population, yet delay exploded



42%



32%



144%

ASCE 2025 Report Card: We should “dedicate resources to **preserving a state of good repair**, because **no nation can build its way out of congestion.**”

# [t4america.org/reauthorization](https://t4america.org/reauthorization)



## POLICY PLATFORM

# Our proposals for transportation reauthorization

The ~\$77-billion-per year federal transportation program has been limping along for years, accomplishing very little while requiring enormous taxpayer infusions to cover its costs. This program doesn't need a facelift; it needs to be blown up and replaced with something completely new.



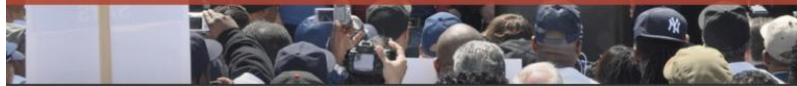
- 1) Fix it first
- 2) Safety over speed
- 3) Invest in the rest
- 4) *Accountability*





# Reauthorization 101

## Understanding the process







**American**  
**Public Transportation**  
**Association**

Ward McCarragher

# APTA— 1,700 Member Organizations Represents All Sectors

*APTA leads public transportation in a new mobility era, advocating to connect and build thriving communities*

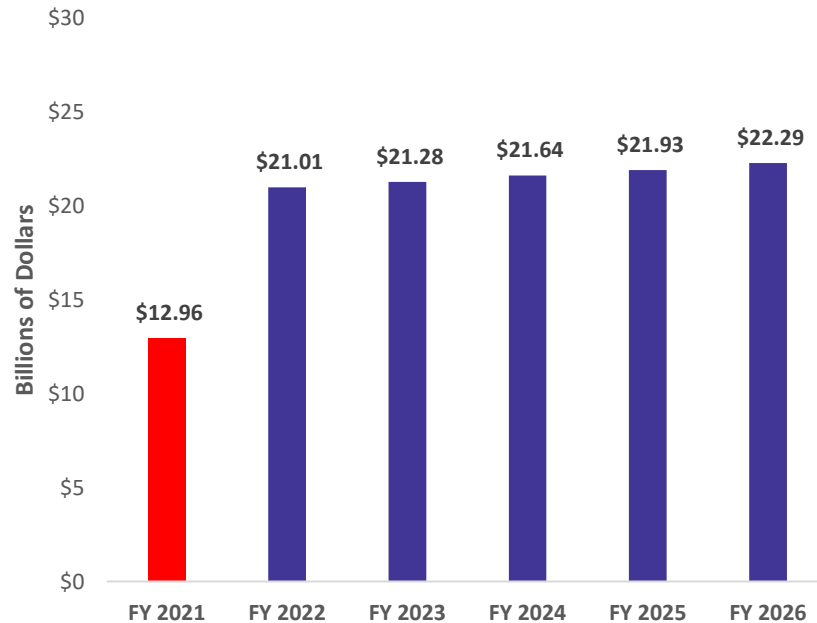


# Surface Transportation Authorization Funding Recommendations

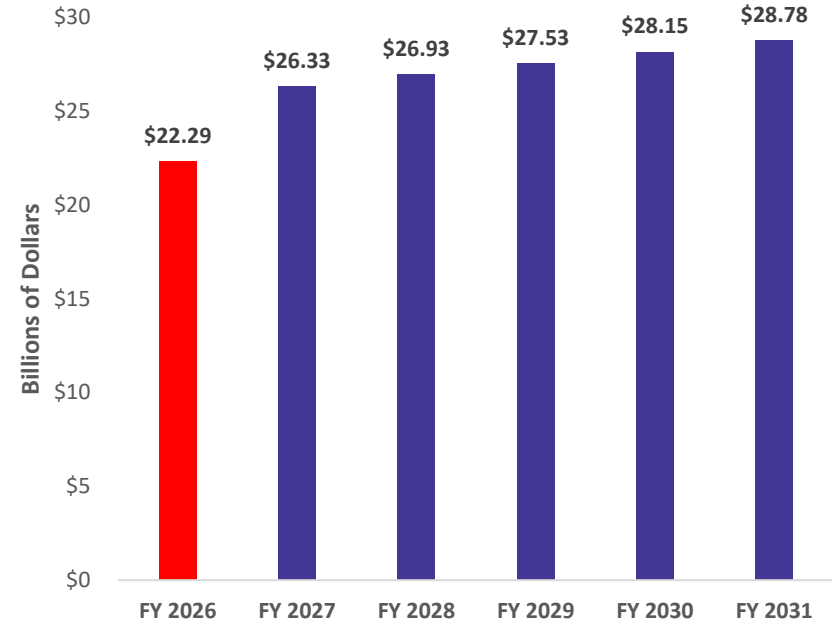
- ✓ Build Upon the IIJA's Historic Public Transit and Passenger Rail Investments
- ✓ Build Upon Guaranteed Funding in a Restructured Framework
- ✓ Restore Purchasing Power Lost to Inflation Since IIJA Enacted
- ✓ Grow Investments at Projected Rate of Inflation (CBO Baseline)

# APTA Transit Investment Recommendations

IIJA Public Transit—\$108 Billion



APTA Recommendation—\$138 Billion

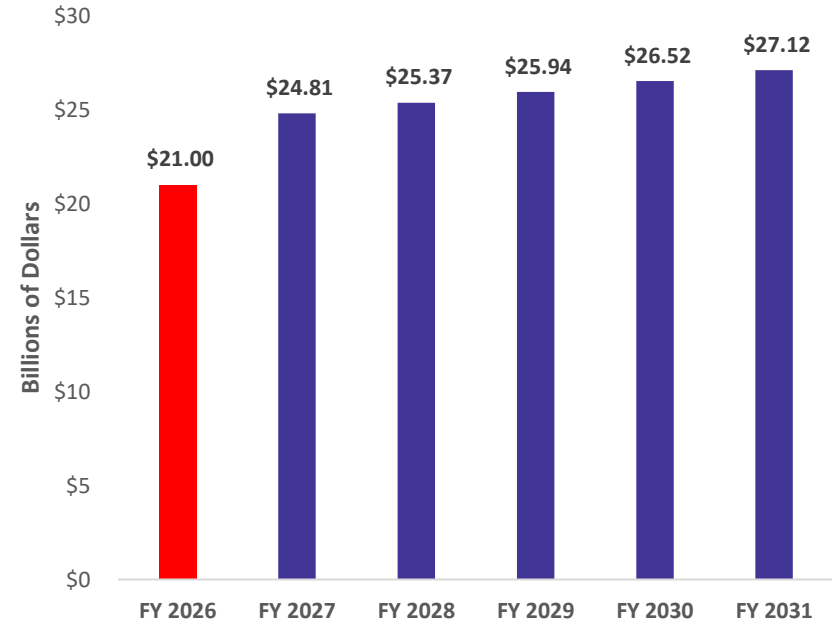


# APTA Rail Investment Recommendations

IIJA Passenger Rail—\$102 Billion



APTA Recommendation—\$130 Billion





# Surface Transportation Authorization

## Key Policy Recommendations

- ✓ Streamline Public Transit Statutory and Regulatory Requirements (e.g., CIG Requirements, Spare Ratio, Real Property Acquisition)
- ✓ Restore Transit CEOs' Authority to be Final Decisionmakers on Implementation of Agency Safety Plans
- ✓ Ensure Public Transit Voting Representation on MPOs
- ✓ Accelerate Project Delivery and Permitting Reform

# Creating Jobs

**430K+**  
**People**

work for public  
transportation agencies



**50K Jobs**

created and supported  
per \$1 billion investment  
in job creation

**5-to-1**

**ECONOMIC RETURN**

produced by long-term  
investment in public transit

**\$382 Million**

**IN TAX REVENUE**

supported per \$1 billion  
investment in job creation

*(According to APTA's "Economic Impact of Public Transportation Investment: 2020 Update")*



**American  
Public Transportation  
Association**

# Supporting the Private Sector

**2,000+**  
**SUPPLIERS**

in 48 states and DC

Nearly

**\$42 Billion**  
**IN TRANSIT SPENDING**

flows to the private sector  
(65% increase since 2000)

## Key Messages

**Public transit  
is built in  
America and  
creates jobs  
across  
America**

**Every \$1  
invested in  
public transit  
generates \$5  
in long-term  
economic  
returns**

**77% of  
Federal  
public transit  
funding flows  
to the private  
sector**

**More than 2,000  
U.S. companies  
supply the  
vehicles,  
equipment, and  
technologies  
that power  
public  
transportation  
nationwide**

# AMERICA WALKS

Mike McGinn

# AMERICA WALKS





# America Walks:

- ## What We Do
- Support local advocacy for walkable, accessible and equitable places
  - Voice for walkability at the national level



Increasing Safe, Enjoyable  
Public Space



Taking Care of the  
Environment



Lifting up Diverse Voices  
and Perspectives



Empowering Grassroots  
Advocacy

# America Walks: What We Do

- Programs:
  - Walking College
  - Community Change Grants
  - Educational Webinars
- Advocacy:
  - Building Better Streets
  - Reconnecting Communities
  - Freedom to Move
  - Week Without Driving
  - Safer Vehicles for Pedestrians

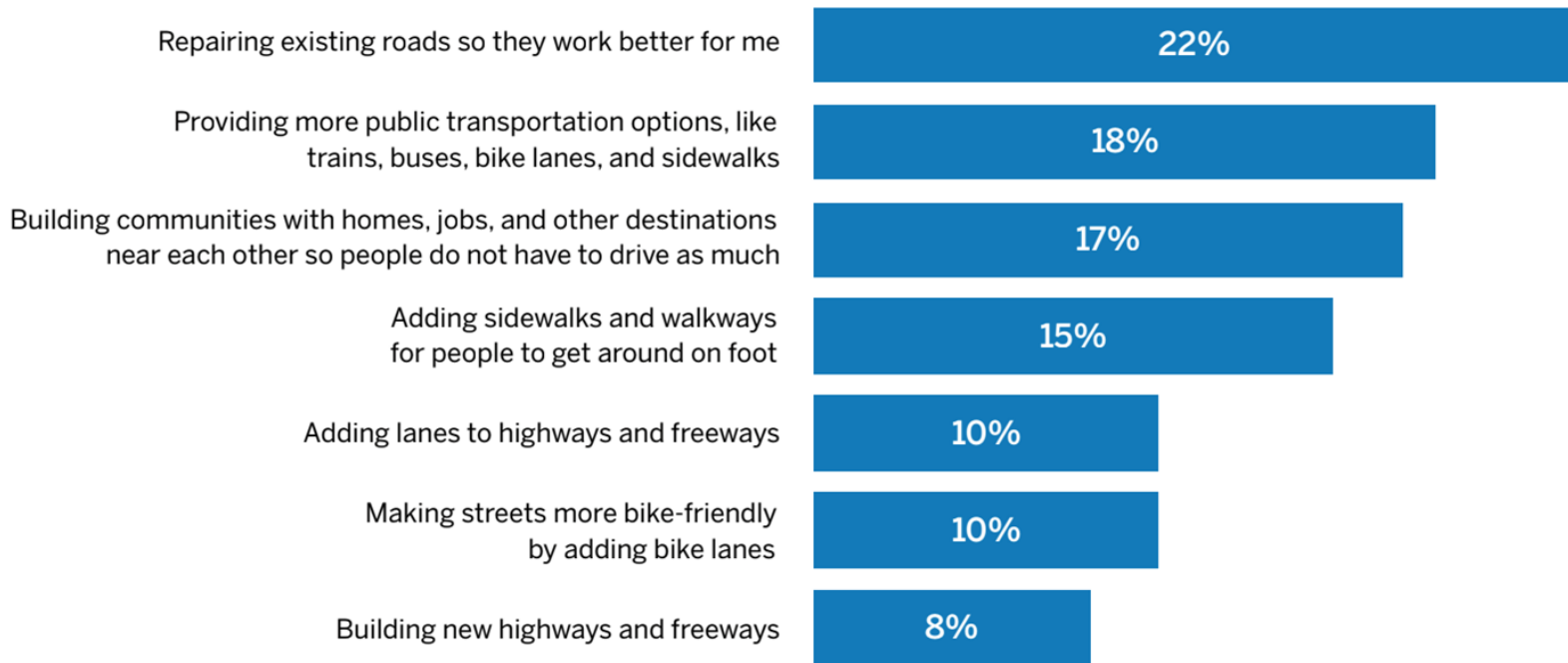


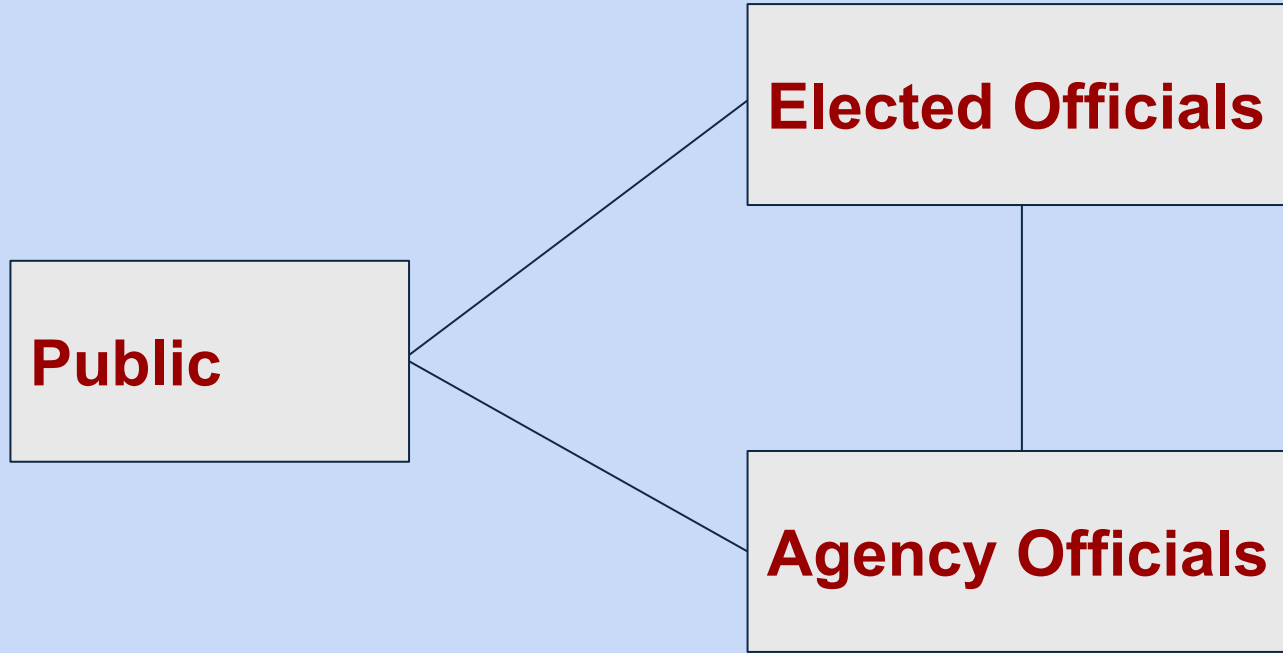
“Below are some ways that your community could reduce traffic. In your opinion, which of the following approaches would be the best and worst long-term solutions to reducing traffic in your area?”

Post-message testing, support for both building new or adding/expanding highways dropped further.

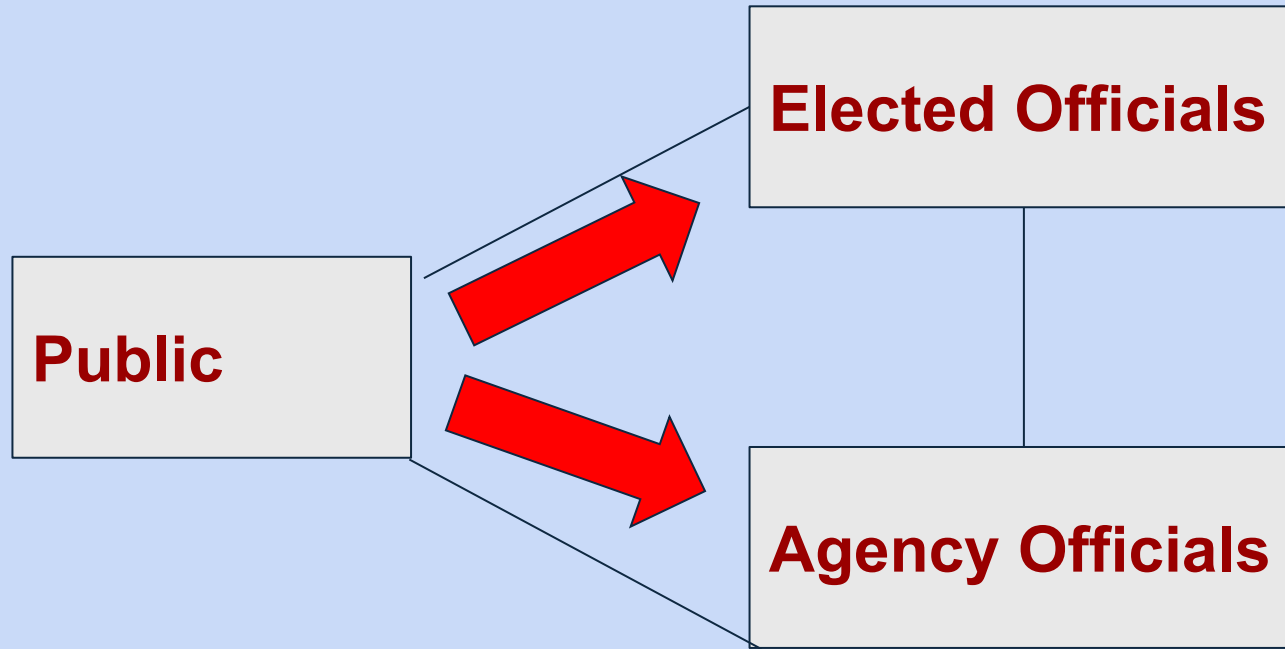
## Pre-Message Testing

■ Best long-term solutions





***You need two out of three***



***You need two out of three***



# AMERICA WALKS

