

MANY AMERICANS READY TO RIDE THE HIGH-SPEED RAILS

Nation sounds off on "missing lynchpin" of U.S. transportation network

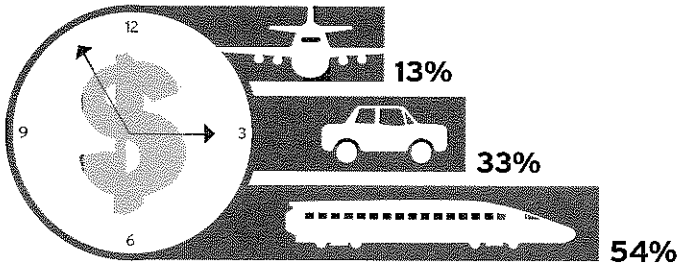
The latest **America THINKS** survey from HNTB Corporation indicates the romance – and attraction – of riding the rails may be returning to America thanks to new federal funding and a public hungry for ways to save time, money, the environment, and add a measure of convenience in their hectic lives.

According to the research, Americans are excited about more high-speed rails. They clearly would take advantage of the opportunity to visit nearby large cities and consider high-speed trains for longer travel. And once people have experienced the features and benefits of high-speed train travel, they're even more likely to choose it over other forms of transportation.

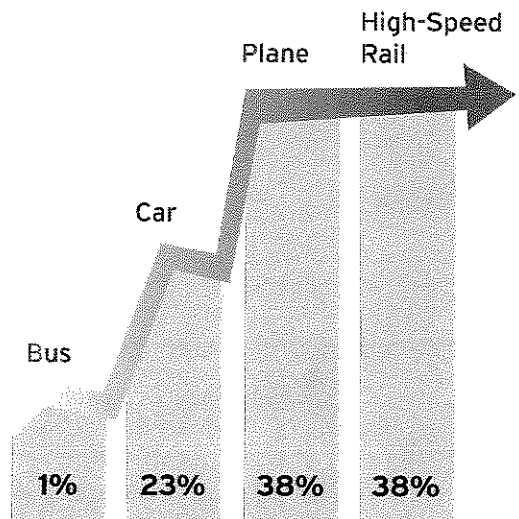
HIGH-SPEED RAIL IS COMPETITIVE

If fare and travel time were about equal, more than half (54 percent) of Americans would choose high-speed rail over other modes of transportation. If traveling to a large city closest to where they live, more Americans (27 percent) would prefer high-speed rail than plane (6 percent) or bus (3 percent). Only the nation's love affair with the car pushed its ranking higher (64 percent).

Q. If the fare and travel time were about the same, which of the following would you be more likely to use to travel to a city in your region?



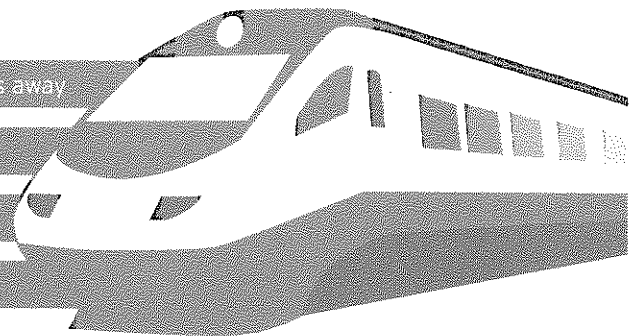
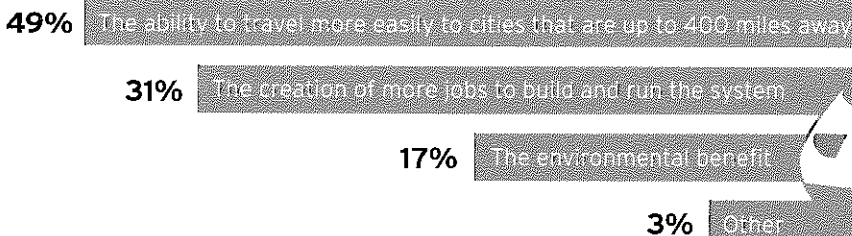
Q. If you were traveling for business, on which of the following would you be most productive?



DEFINITELY IN MY BACKYARD

Many people are interested in the concept of high-speed rail coming to their region. Almost half (49 percent) say the best benefit would be the ability to travel more easily to cities up to 400 miles away. Nearly a third (31 percent) place job creation at the top of their lists. Many also are interested in potential perks, such as more convenient inter-city travel (71 percent), faster trains (55 percent) and more comfortable travel (49 percent).

Q. Which of the following would be the most important benefit of constructing a high-speed rail system in your region?



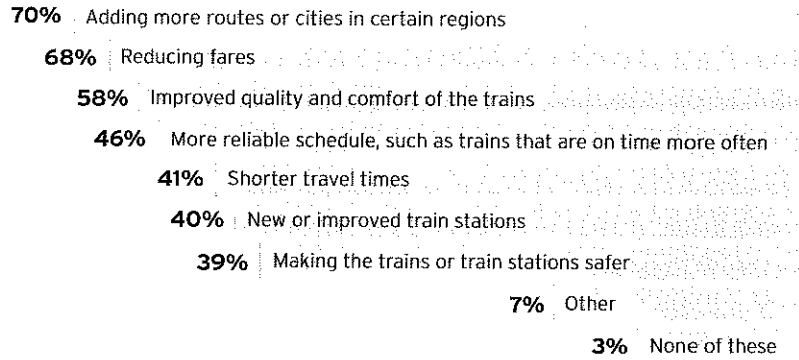
MAKING TRAIN TRAVEL APPEALING AGAIN

The benefits of high-speed trains directly relate to the attributes Americans most often think would make riding the rails more appealing.

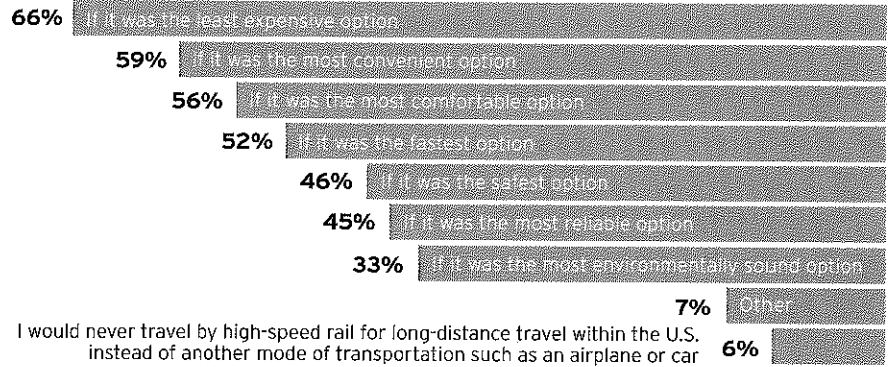


Americans will most often choose high-speed rail for long-distance travel within the U.S. over other modes of transportation if it is the least expensive (66 percent), most convenient (59 percent) and the most comfortable (56 percent).

Q. Which of the following do you think would make train travel more appealing to Americans?



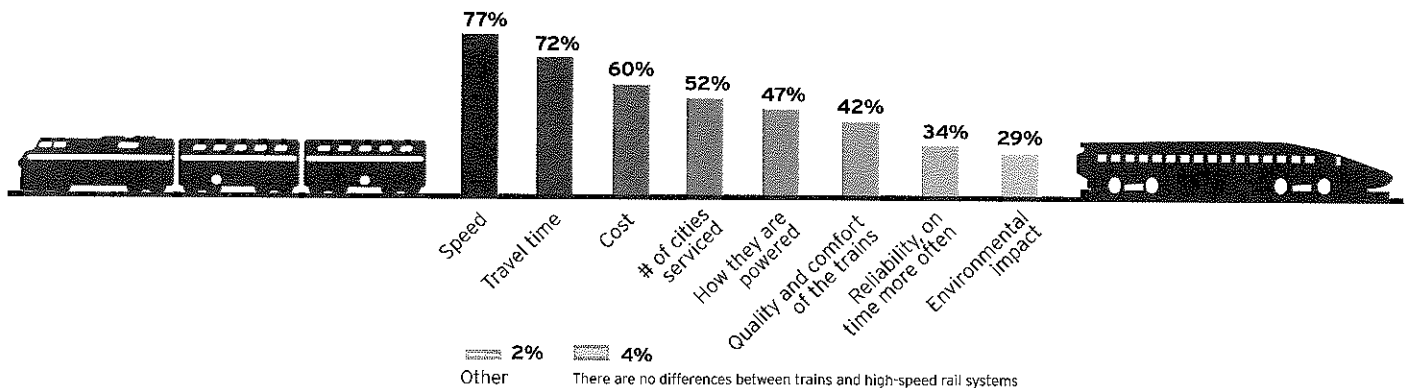
Q. Which of the following describe why you would choose to travel by high-speed rail for long-distance travel within the U.S. instead of another mode of transportation such as an airplane or a car?



Q. To the best of your knowledge, in which of the following ways do regular rail systems and high-speed rail systems differ? For the purposes of this question, please think of regular train systems such as Amtrak.

MORE EDUCATION IS NEEDED

While there is a general appreciation for high-speed rail, more work needs to be done to help people understand all of high-speed rail's benefits.



HNTB's America THINKS survey polled a random nationwide sample of 1,007 Americans Mar. 18-23, 2009. It was conducted by Kelton Research, which used an e-mail invitation and online survey. Quotas were set to ensure reliable and accurate representation of the total U.S. population ages 18 and over. The margin of error is +/- 3.1 percent. For more information, visit www.hntb.com or contact John O'Connell, (816) 527-2383, joconnell@hntb.com



America **THINKS** Survey



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