

*Questions to guide a reporter's thinking
on
transportation policy and investment proposals*

1. **Who wins; who loses? Are we robbing Peter to pay Paul? Who is Peter? Who is Paul?**
2. **What is the cost per person (or person-mile, or vehicle-mile) served? Does it pass the laugh test?**
3. **What is the relationship between what the user pays and the total cost of this expenditure?**
4. **Are we using actual realistic values or best-possible-situation estimates? What is the track record of such cost estimates/ridership estimates by this group and others in the past?**
5. **Is the public sector doing something the private sector should be doing? -- or the converse?**
6. **Is there a slippery slope here – leading to further needs and expenditures?**
7. **Is this a nice-to-do expenditure that detracts from the ability to meet must-do needs?**
8. **Can you trust the use of the word “efficiency”? The efficiency of whom or what? Are users being penalized in order to make “the system” work better?**
9. **What share of available resources are being used to address what share of our problem?**
10. **Are we planning to make a large segment of the population miserable enough to get some of them to change their behavior? Is that rational in a pluralistic society? Would a technological solution do just as well or better?**

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