The nation’s surface transportation funding is facing a defining moment regarding the methods it will use to fund transportation improvements. Due to the weakening economy, the ever-improving fuel efficiency of vehicles, and other factors, the traditional funding sources for surface transportation—motor fuel taxes—are having difficulty generating sufficient revenue to meet highway construction and maintenance needs. To provide specific, useful information concerning the potential transportation funding crisis and potential practical alternatives in the state of Alabama, this research proposes to focus on four areas. First, the research will survey Alabama citizens to determine their attitudes toward both current revenue methods and revenue enhancement alternatives. Second, the research will project annual costs and revenues involved in levying tolls on all Interstate highways in Alabama. Third, it will investigate alternatives to determine whether replacing or supplementing the current fuel tax with road user fees is palatable to Alabamians and is technically feasible in the state. Finally, it will select, investigate, and project the potential of several other revenue-enhancement alternatives to fill the funding gap that the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) will soon face.
Subjects
Planning and Forecasting
Finance
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