

<http://www.studentnewsdaily.com/editorials-for-students/abolish-the-gas-tax/>

Questions

technology.

1. How is a new office building in Sweden using RFID chips with employees? (What will users be able to do with the chip?)
2. How did Hannes Sjoblad, “chief disruption officer” at the Swedish Biohacking Group that is running the program, respond to a question about whether he thinks people will really want to participate in chip implantation?
3. What problem did the BBC reporter find with the chip he had had implanted in his hand?
4. In addition to their goal of making life easier for users, what objective does the Swedish Biohacking Group say they have for implanting chips in people?
5. The reporter does not provide details on the number of employees who chose to have a chip implanted. Invasive technology is always promoted as something to make life convenient or done for our safety. Discuss all of the following with a parent and/or a grandparent:
 - a) List one way you and/or your parents or family have given up privacy in the name of safety or convenience.
 - b) Would you be willing to have a chip implanted in your hand for convenience?
 - c) How about for safety? (implanting a chip in a child)?
 - d) Would gaining certain benefits or discounts cause you to allow a chip to be implanted?
 - e) If chip implantation became mandatory (not voluntary) for entrance into a public school, college buildings or a place of employment, would you be opposed?
 - f) Do you think Americans would be less willing to have chips implanted for convenience than Europeans?

Explain each answer.

<http://www.studentnewsdaily.com/daily-news-article/swedish-office-puts-chips-under-staffs-skin/>

Questions

1. What is the main idea of the WSJ editors' commentary?

2. The editors explain in paragraph 7:

But since the 1990s, the Highway Trust Fund has come to fund much more than new roads and bridges and highway maintenance, abandoning the original "user pays" principle behind a gas tax. Drivers now see about a quarter of their gas taxes diverted to subsidize mass transit in merely six metro areas and sundry other programs for street cars, ferries, sidewalks, bike lanes, hiking trails, urban planning and even landscaping nationwide. Trolley riders, et al., contribute nothing to the HTF.

Are you surprised by this assertion? Explain your answer.

3. In their editorial, the WSJ editors also write:

Another myth is that U.S. roads and bridges are "crumbling," to use the invariable media description. Federal Highway Administration data show that the condition, quality and safety of U.S. surface transportation are steadily improving. The Chicago Federal Reserve Bank noted in a 2009 paper that roads have "indisputably" improved over the last two decades and that "the surface of the median interstate highway mile is suitable for superhighway speeds not typically permitted in the United States."

Some highways do need repair and modernization, and the U.S. does need more roads to relieve congestion and encourage trade and economic activity. The real crisis isn't the amount of money but how it is spent.

Do you agree or disagree with this assertion? Explain your answer.

4. Since gas prices have gone down so much, do you think it's ok for Congress to raise federal gas taxes? Explain your answer.

5. What is the gas tax in the state of Washington?