

Congestion Pricing A Tool for Sustainability, Equity, and Behavior Change

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The traffic congestion problem

Traffic congestion is associated with poor outcomes related to:

- Local pollution and greenhouse gas emissions
- Public health and safety
- Economic productivity
- Social equity

What is congestion pricing?



Fee charged for the most used parts of roads used during the busiest times of day to reduce demand



Can take different forms depending on where it is used, e.g. downtown cordon tolls or highway corridor tolls



Tolls are dynamic and charge different rates at different times of day, depending on traffic levels



Revenue generated can be invested in other modes and other community priorities



Pricing has effectively managed roadway demand in cities around the world for years



Pricing is one tool among many to improve sustainability outcomes by decreasing single occupancy vehicle use



How is congestion pricing a tool for behavior change?

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Disincentivizes car travel

Setting the fee at a high enough rate counteracts the temptation to drive so long as there are other options available.

Shifts demand

Dynamic pricing is makes it more expensive to drive at busier times.

Boosts competitiveness of other modes

When revenue is invested in improving more efficient modes, infrastructure and operations for those systems improve.



COVID-19 Pandemic



Despite a 13 percent drop in vehicle miles travelled, traffic volumes are once again on the rise.

Used car sales surged beginning in early 2021.

Transit ridership fell and is not expected to rebound to pre-pandemic levels in the near future.







No impacts on retail businesses or household purchasing power were identified in Stockholm



Singapore's program has achieved an estimated rate of return on investment of over 15%



In the year after its program was launched, London experienced drops in NOx (13.4%), CO2 (15%), and PM10 (7%)





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