Options for reducing traffic congestion: an overview


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The latest traffic data indicates clearly that congestion is increasing in London, with our survey of Londoners supporting this finding. Although congestion charging in the early years was very effective in enabling capacity previously allocated to private motor vehicles to be reallocated largely to bus lanes and pedestrian space because it reduced demand and because it allowed us to use our public space more efficiently, more pleasantly and so on.

Policy Options for Congestion Pricing:
- Reduce Federal Barriers to Implementation
- Change Funding Mechanisms
- Address Equity Issues
- Reduce Transaction Costs

Congestion pricing reduces the number of vehicles on a highway at peak periods by charging drivers for using the highway during those periods. When successfully applied, congestion pricing makes better use of highways’ capacity by allocating it more efficiently. Congestion-pricing programs use variable pricing; that is, they charge highway users a higher price for use of a highway at times or places with heavy traffic, and a lower price at times or places with light traffic. In principle, the price would reflect the cost of delay that each driver imposes on all other drivers on the highway.