The San Francisco County Transportation Authority (“Authority”) is conducting a Mobility, Access, and Pricing Study to examine the feasibility of using congestion pricing as a means to manage congestion and improve mobility in the city. Congestion pricing entails charging motorists a user fee to access specific areas or routes during congested periods. The Authority began exploring congestion pricing in its 2004 Countywide Transportation Plan, following the success of London’s 2003 congestion charging pilot program. The Authority’s current feasibility study is intended to determine if congestion pricing makes sense for San Francisco.

Stuck in Traffic?

One of the goals of congestion pricing is to keep cars and buses moving

Today, public transit accounts for 770,000 daily trips, and 43% of downtown trips in the a.m. peak period. Yet traffic congestion in San Francisco threatens the city’s overall quality of life and economic vitality, and makes inefficient use of our transportation system. Reducing the city’s existing levels of congestion will allow drivers and transit riders to get to their destinations more quickly and have more reliable commute times and deliveries, increasing productivity and saving time.

Re-investing Road Charges to Improve Alternatives to Driving

The Authority’s Mobility, Access and Pricing Study will explore the technical and economic feasibility of congestion pricing. Possible design concepts and pricing scenarios will be tested and evaluated for their respective benefits and impacts and presented to the public for additional input. Congestion pricing will be evaluated in combination with the improvements to transit, carpooling, bicycling, and walking that can be funded by the congestion pricing proceeds. This integrated approach has been used successfully by London, Stockholm, Singapore, and other cities around the world. Pricing has been shown to re-define the set of transportation choices for urban travelers in a way that improves a region’s quality of life while supporting and growing its economic activity.

Analysis Areas

- Policy Framework
- Financial & Economic Impacts
- System Performance
- Technology Systems
- Regulations & Institutions

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**Participation in the Study**

Public participation is crucial to successful and accurate evaluation of efforts to improve mobility and reduce congestion in San Francisco. The Study Team is guided by several advisory committees at each stage of the Study, and will host public workshops at key milestones to share information and gather input.

**Schedule & Funding**

The Study is expected to last 12–18 months, with input from San Francisco’s residents, businesses, travelers, and other stakeholders throughout the duration of the Study. The Study is primarily funded by a $1 million grant from the Federal Highway Administration’s Value Pricing Program. Matching funds are provided by San Francisco’s Proposition K transportation sales tax program and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

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