SESSION I - URBAN ROAD PRICING

Congestion charging in Stockholm

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Stockholm to introduce congestion charges on trial basis

The charges are intended to reduce congestion, increase accessibility and improve the environment. The Stockholm Municipal Council on 2 June adopted a majority proposal to introduce congestion charges on a trial basis. It is proposed to start the trial in the spring of 2005. Work on procurement of technical systems was initiated in spring and summer 2003. The Government and Parliament are preparing legislation to enable the charges and a governmental proposal for a new legislation is expected in February 2004.

Objectives of the trial
- To reduce traffic volume by 10-15 percent on the most heavily used routes during morning and afternoon hours.
- To improve accessibility for buses and cars in the inner city.
- To cut emissions of carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides and airborne particles in the inner city.
- People in the inner city should experience an improved environment at the street level.

Time plan for the trial
The trial is scheduled to start in May or June 2005 and will be evaluated both on the basis of concrete objectives and comments from the public. Stockholm inhabitants will then be able to decide on permanent introduction of the congestion charges in a referendum to be held in conjunction with the 2006 election.

Toll system
Under the majority proposal, the system will have an outer zone boundary at the city toll gates surrounding the inner city of Stockholm. Tolls will be introduced for passage into and out of the inner city on weekdays during the day.

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How will the revenue be used?
Under the City Hall majority proposal, the congestion charges will be returned to the Stockholm region for investment in public transit and infrastructure associated with the trial. The revenue is not intended to reduce Stockholm’s level of other government funding for infrastructure.

Regulations for commercial traffic
Commercial road users as well as private vehicles are offered the option of paying a maximum charge per day and vehicle, of 60 SEK/day.

Under the proposal, tolls should include VAT, which will reduce the cost to commercial road users compared to private road users.
Exemptions for specific traffic categories
It is recommended to exempt the following traffic categories from the charges:
- Emergency vehicles, vehicles with disability permits, certain vehicles whose owners are exempt from taxation in Sweden, buses on scheduled routes, environmental vehicles as defined by Stockholm Municipality (e.g. ethanol and biogas), taxis, transport services for the disabled, school buses, motor cycles.

Decision regarding implementation
The formal decisions for implementation are made by the Government and Parliament. A legislation proposal will be presented for the Parliament in the spring 2004.

Proposed charges and times
The maximum charge may e.g. correspond to less than two return trips per day across the outer zone boundary during peak hours, i.e. you will never pay more than SEK 60.00 in one day between 00 and 24 hours.

For further information please visit www.stockholm.se/miljoavgifter.