PRICED TO MOVE:
HOW CONGESTION PRICING IN CITIES WORKS

Congestion pricing is a model for cities, towns and villages to reduce congestion in their regions, decrease travel time for residents, improve air quality and create new funding for improving all types of transportation infrastructure. America’s 15 most congested cities are losing $59.7 billion in economic productivity every single year, and high growth continues in southern cities of fifty thousand residents or more as well as cities in fast growing regions out west. Large urban epicenters are not the only ones paying the price: Suburban and outlying areas in the region are also burdened with gridlock and could benefit from tackling these challenges with a congestion pricing program.

6 CONGESTION PRICING BENEFITS

1. Collects significant funding to reinvest in regional transportation projects
2. Congestion decreased 20-30%
3. Cities, towns and villages of all sizes see benefits
4. Better public health and fewer deaths
5. Increased popularity of less-polluting modes of transit, like buses and bikes
6. Payback period to set up programs was four years or less

U.S. CITIES OF ALL SIZES RELY ON CARS AND COULD ALL BENEFIT FROM CONGESTION PRICING

Commuting Patterns in U.S. Cities by Size Group
CREATE INCENTIVES
With variable pricing, the goal is for congestion charges to rise in accordance with increased traffic congestion, thereby redirecting some drivers off the road at peak times and making traffic flow more smoothly.

REGIONAL REINVESTMENT
The funding collected is then invested throughout the region to improve flow for cars and people in the whole region, not just the zone.

By managing traffic flow through price incentives and reinvesting to create regional results, congestion pricing can be a valuable tool for cities in growing regions throughout the U.S.

CASE STUDY: STOCKHOLM
1. 22% Congestion reduction
2. 5% Increase in public transportation use
3. Delays dropped by ⅔ in the morning rush and by ⅔ in the afternoon/evening peak
4. 10-15% reduction in inner city emissions
5. 50% reduction in childhood asthma
6. 25-30 fewer deaths occur annually in the metropolitan area
7. 2 out of 3 voters supported the congestion charge
8. No negative impact on local businesses

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE NLC’S REPORT, MAKING SPACE: CONGESTION PRICING IN CITIES NLC.ORG/CONGESTION.