

ABSTRACT

Urban traffic congestion is growing rapidly and has become a nagging problem for most cities today. This thesis will address the causes and consequences of road congestion and the various measures that have been developed to curb it. It shall look, with particular interest, at the experience of Singapore, where an innovative land transport policy has enabled the road system to be congestion free even at peak hours. More specifically, this thesis will probe the need for setting prices for roads as a way of alleviating congestion. It then examines the nature and results of the Singapore Area Licensing Scheme, the world's first comprehensive road pricing system. With the technological revolution, the application of road pricing is becoming both easier and more sophisticated. Today, Electronic Road Pricing (ERP) systems are becoming technically and administratively feasible. The thesis consequently investigate which ERP systems, coupled with a judicious blend of prevailing traffic restraint measures, will be sufficient to break the traffic gridlocks that have become a ubiquitous curse of urban life.