

INDEPENDENT TRANSPORT COMMISSION
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON
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**PAY-AS-YOU-DRIVE CHARGING – HOW IT WOULD
LOOK ON THE GROUND**

- *Driving would cost more in towns and cities and less in the country*
- *The need for new roads would be reduced*
- *Places where investment is needed would be highlighted*
- *Drivers would face reduced delay and frustration in cities*
- *The cost of moving goods by road would fall*
- *More people would go by bus and services would grow*
- *Traffic on rural roads would increase*

‘Professor Glaister’s research is incredibly timely*,’ said Sir Patrick Brown, chairman of the Commission. ‘It maps, for a given charge, how traffic would change in city and country and along the motorway corridors. The most promising scenario, which we call ‘Fair Charges?’ in our report,** shows what would happen if the Treasury scrapped fuel tax and replaced it with variable, pay-as-you-drive, congestion and environmental charges. The revenue raised would be the same as today but traffic problems that have dogged Britain for generations would be diminished.’ Sir Patrick added.

* On 10th June Alistair Darling, the Transport Secretary, said at a seminar that road pricing was ‘not a solution on its own’ but needed examining.

** ‘Transport Pricing: Better for Travellers’ at www.trg.soton.ac/itc from 16th June or for £20 from t.bendixson@pobox.com.

Using a national model designed by Professor Stephen Glaister***, the Commission also asked what would happen if current policies were to continue. ‘With incomes rising, motoring costs falling and travelling on the increase, delay and discomfort would get worse,’ Sir Patrick said. ‘The way ahead lies with combining road use charges with some transport investment.’

***Professor Stephen Glaister, the distinguished Imperial College economist, and his colleague Dr Daniel Graham.

The Department for Transport gave them access to Government data. Their report ‘Transport Pricing and Investment in England’ will be available from 16th June on www.trg.soton.ac.uk/itc and www.cts.cv.imperial.ac.uk

Maps

Coloured maps of England show how road use charges would effect traffic speeds and volumes in towns and country and on motorway corridors.

Funding

The ITC’s report and the underlying research by Professor Glaister and Dr Graham was funded by the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, the Rees Jeffreys Road Fund and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

The Independent Transport Commission

The Independent Transport Commission, founded in 1999, has ten Members drawn from business, transport, motoring, the environment and research.

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