

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** CMAP Board

**From:** CMAP Staff

**Date:** February 6, 2013

**Re:** Update on Congestion Pricing Campaign

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At the joint meeting of the CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee in October, staff introduced CMAP's campaign to implement congestion pricing in the region. Pursuing congestion pricing was a major recommendation of GO TO 2040. It is meant to help manage traffic and give drivers better travel choices.

At the October meeting staff showcased a website ([www.cmap.illinois.gov/congestion-pricing/](http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/congestion-pricing/)) designed to explain the benefits of congestion pricing. Staff also previewed a technical study of implementing congestion pricing on new highway capacity in the region, focusing on five of the major capital projects in GO TO 2040. That study showed major improvements in travel times on the expressways with no traffic spillover to local streets.

Since October, the campaign received significant media coverage in the following media coverage:

- WBEZ-FM news coverage, February 5, 2013: "[Report: Chicago traffic is bad; leave early](#)" and [Afternoon Shift](#) program.
- NBC-TV news coverage, February 5, 2013: Interviewed for their evening news and [web-only story](#).
- Daily Herald, February 5, 2013: "[Paying for express lane one route to avoiding gridlock](#)"
- Crain's Chicago Business op-ed, January 7, 2013: "[Congestion pricing: An issue of competitiveness](#)"
- Chicago Tribune editorial, October 29, 2012: "[Traffic Decongestant: Letting drivers pay to avoid delays](#)"
- CMAP press release, October 15, 2012: "[Computer models show congestion pricing's benefits for metropolitan Chicago residents and region](#)"

- Chicago Tribune news column, October 15, 2012: "[Would you pay to skip traffic?](#)"
- WGN-TV news coverage, October 15, 2012: "[Proposed express toll lanes promise to cut commute -- for a price](#)"
- ABC-TV news coverage, October 15, 2012: "[Plan would charge Chicago commuters to drive on faster express lanes](#)"
- FOX-TV news coverage, October 15, 2012: "[The price to avoid traffic](#)"
- WBEZ-FM news coverage, October 15, 2012: "[Transportation group has plan to solve Chicago's gridlock](#)"
- Chicago Magazine news coverage, October 15, 2012: "[Congestion Pricing Works, and Why People Don't Like It](#)"
- Chicagoist news coverage, October 16, 2012: "[Would you pay to use express lanes?](#)"

Staff has also been making presentations to numerous organizations, including World Business Chicago, Illinois Chamber of Commerce, Illinois Trucking Association, Northwest Municipal Conference and other councils of government, the Council of Mayors Executive Committee, a Chicago City Council committee, and others. Staff will be conducting more outreach over the next few months.

Following these meetings, staff requests expressions of support for implementing congestion pricing. This could be in the form of board resolutions or letters to the Tollway Board, IDOT Secretary, and the Governor. It is important to have these, since they indicate a favorable climate for congestion pricing in the Chicago area. Staff is seeking assistance from the CMAP Board to encourage regional partners to support congestion pricing with a letter or resolution.

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Informational

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