

The Government Launches Consultation on Electronic Road Pricing Pilot Scheme

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Consultation on ERP

The HKSAR Government has launched a three-month consultation on an Electronic Road Pricing (ERP) Pilot Scheme for Central and its adjacent areas. The consultation will end on 18 March 2016. More information is available on Transport and Housing Bureau's [website on the ERP Pilot Scheme](#).

The Government will conduct a feasibility study focusing on the road pricing charging area, period, mechanism, level, exemptions and technology, after collecting views during the consultation period.

What is Electronic Road Pricing?

Electronic Road Pricing (ERP) is a traffic management tool to tackle localised road traffic congestion. It aims to rationalise traffic flow in targeted areas where severe traffic congestion occurs almost daily. ERP is based on the "user pays" principle, and charges are levied on vehicles using the roads in the charging areas during designated periods.

Reasons for Planning the ERP Pilot Scheme in Central and its Adjacent Areas

- Severe traffic congestion occurs in Central and its adjacent areas during most of the day time.
- ERP technology has been successfully implemented in a number of overseas cities and has been proved to be a useful tool to tackle localized traffic congestion.
- The Central-Wan Chai Bypass, when commissioned, will provide a free-of-charge alternative route to allow motorists whose origins and destinations are not in Central to bypass the charging area. Moreover, the areas are well served by a variety of public transport modes.

ERP Benefits

- Enhance traffic mobility in the charging area
- Improve business operations and efficiency in the charging area
- Bring about economic and social benefits to the community



Basic ERP Elements

Charging area

The area, covered by an ERP Pilot Scheme, is usually, but not limited to, the central business district of a city where severe traffic congestion occurs almost daily.

Charging mechanism

Two common types:

1. Cordon-based mechanism: a vehicle is charged each time when the vehicle passes through a charging point during the charging period. The charging points are located along the boundary of the charging areas.
2. Area-based mechanism: a vehicle is charged each time, typically at a daily rate, for entering or using the roads in the charging area during the charging period, regardless of the duration, distance and number of entries the vehicle makes.

Charging period

The time period during which vehicles will be charged, and normally corresponds to the period lasting from the morning peak hours to the evening peak hours on weekdays.

Charging level

The amount to be charged on motorists for using the roads in the charging area during the charging period.

Exemption and concession

To decide whether and what types of exemptions/ concessions should be made available.



Technology

Two commonly used technologies for ERP:

1. Automatic Number Plate Recognition ("ANPR") - use cameras to capture the images of the licence number plates of vehicles passing through ERP gantries/ poles on which the cameras are mounted.
2. Dedicated Short-range Radio Communication ("DSRC") - require vehicles to pre-install an in-vehicle unit ("IVU") for information exchange with the equipment mounted on ERP gantry/ pole using wireless communication, and ERP charges will be immediately deducted from the pre-payment/ credit cards inserted in the IVU.

Overseas ERP Experience

ERP has been successfully implemented in a number of overseas cities, including Singapore in 1998, London (United Kingdom) in 2003 and, more recently, Gothenburg (Sweden) in 2013.

BEC's Submission

BEC is collecting views from members of BEC Transport and Logistics Advisory Group to help prepare our policy submission on the ERP pilot scheme. For other BEC members who would like to provide comments, please forward them to or contact Ms. Gentiane Gastaldi (E:gentiane@bec.org.hk; T: 2784-3928) by 15 January 2016. A draft policy submission will be circulated to all BEC members for comment in due course.

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