



VIRGINIA HOT LANES

Some things can't wait for traffic.



Congestion pricing makes headlines across the country

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Virginia HOT lanes will use a concept called "congestion pricing" to keep HOT lanes free-flowing for buses, carpools and other motorists who choose to pay a toll when they need to get somewhere on time.

With congestion pricing, toll prices will be based on demand. Prices will change throughout the day according to real-time traffic conditions to manage the number of cars in the HOT lanes and keep them congestion free.

Recent national news headlines have touted the benefits of this innovative transportation solution:

- USA Today reports: "Put simply, congestion pricing is a fair and effective idea for fighting gridlock. It employs basic economics by letting price find the balance between supply and demand."
- Nationally syndicated columnist George Will notes: "The congestion crisis requires joining an old material -- concrete -- with new technologies. Toll highways or lanes can do what restaurants and movie theaters do -- use differential pricing to draw traffic to off-peak hours."
- The Washington Post calls congestion pricing "a way to make many lives a lot easier" in an environment in which "traffic jams cost millions of Americans real money, an expense that is disguised in the form of lost time and wasted gas, not to mention the daily frustration that's harder to price or otherwise quantify."
- Virginia is at the forefront of the congestion pricing trend, according to The Richmond Times-Dispatch, whose editorial page writes: "it's nice to see the rest of the country catching up with the Old Dominion."

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