

M6 Toll Motorway United Kingdom

CEE 491

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Outline

- Overview
 - Background information
 - Magnitudes & costs
- Purpose, social/economical benefits
- Technical issues & innovations
- Social problems & policy challenges

Overview



- Publicly funded roadway
- Birmingham North Relief Road (BNRR)
- Midland Expressway
- Connects M6 Junction with a 27 mile, 6 lane motorway.
- National Exhibition Center to Wolverhampton

Overview



- Wolverhampton at Northern end
- National Exhibition Center at South end

Magnitudes & Costs

- Proposal circulated in 1980
- 1989 - Contest held to choose builder
- 53 year contract, with cost of £900 million
- The operator sets toll rates every 6 months
- No caps on the rates charged

Construction



- 2000 – site clearance
- 2002 – construction
- 2003 – opening

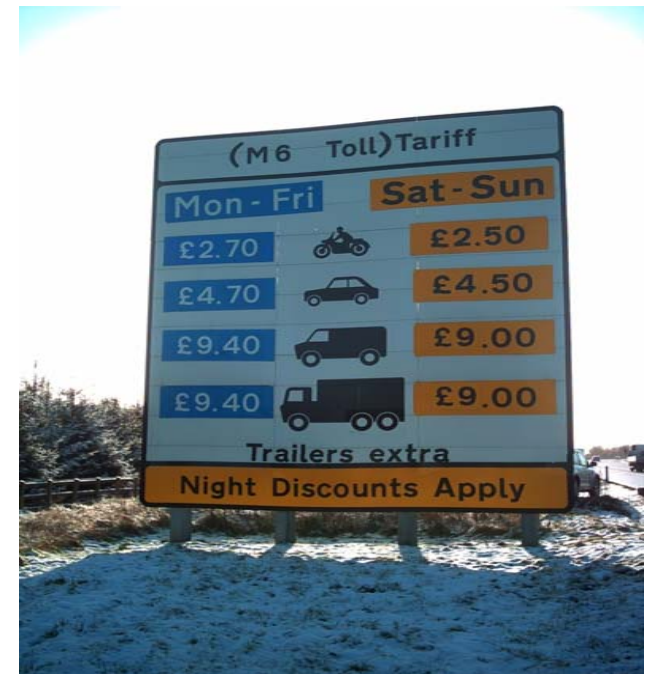
Toll Prices (Mon-Fri 6am-11pm)

Class	Price (GBP)	2003 (USD)
Motorbike	£ 1.00	\$1.63
Car	£ 2.00	\$3.27
Van	£ 5.00	\$8.16
HGV	£ 10.00	\$16.33



Toll Prices (Mon-Fri 6am-11pm)

Class	Price (GBP)	Price (USD)
Motorbike	£2.70	\$3.78
Car	£4.70	\$6.58
Car & Trailer	£8.40	\$11.77
Van	£9.40	\$13.17
HGV	£9.40	\$13.17



Purpose

- Designed to alleviate congestion on the M6 through Birmingham
 - Design: 72,000 vehicles per day
 - 1991: 180,000 vehicles per day
 - Today: 145,000 vehicles per day

Social & Economic Benefits

- Reduced travel time
- Reduced congestion in neighboring towns and villages
- Reliable journey times
- Safety
- State of the art service area



Innovations

- Electronic classification of vehicles at toll booth
- Microchip tag system
- Noise reducing asphalt
- State of the art service station

Technical Issues

- Repairs for uneven surface
- Needed modifications to improve drainage

Social Problems and Policy Challenges

Social Problems include:

- Environmental Impacts
- No major improvements in congestion
- Impact on how much people travel
- Creates more cost to users than benefits

Social Problems and Policy Challenges cont.

Policy Challenges include:

- Opposition by “West Midlands Friends of the Earth”
- Challenged by the “Alliance”