

Why are We Subsidizing Car-Use?

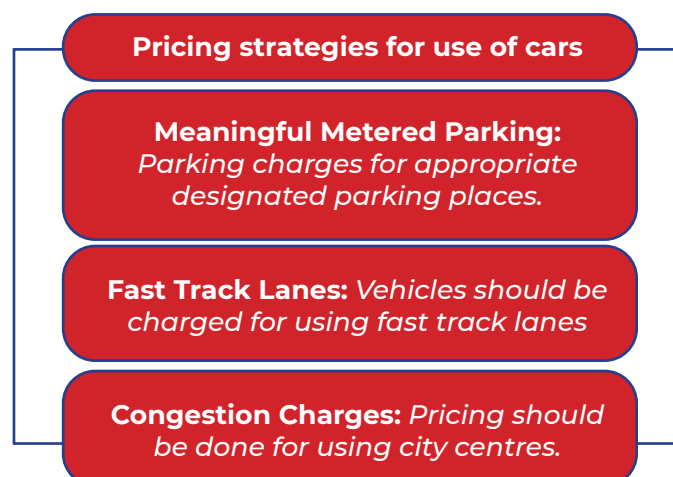
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Cities are being built for cars. The trend of walking and biking in Pakistan has now changed. People are now more obsessed with cars that has resulted into huge highways, abundant flyovers and underpasses for signal free corridors that has made biking and walking impossible. All sidewalks are eliminated and there are no bike lanes. One has to climb up 3 floors to cross a road that makes it a tough exercise even for the fittest to use it for walking or biking. Even the public transport is being built on the platforms to make more space for cars.

We need mobility in cities without traffic congestion wasting the time and polluting the environment. Mobility is for all and not for cars only. When cities grow, people and their activities crowd into dense neighborhoods and cars hinder mobility. As density increases, space for cars in form of roads and parking is never sufficient. Congestion is being increased as roads and underpasses are expanded as an effort to reduce the traffic flow by making large expenditure of car expenditures.

Pakistan having some of the largest and busiest cities of the world are still struggling to cope with car as a huge housing shortage persists. Road-building has the hugest share in development budget. Cars need to be limited for equity of mobility and faster mobility within the city.

Walking and bicycling are considered to be salubrious to health. It is cheap form of transport and next cheapest form is the elevator as people move in neighborhood of high-rise buildings. We need to think that cars are a luxury and not a necessity. They cover large spaces that could be utilized for human activity. It is estimated that one car can take a space of around 100 pedestrians and 15-20 bicycles could be operated. Even a bus of about 60-80 passengers takes a space of 3 cars.



Technology should be used for collection of above-mentioned charges and space could be freed up for pedestrians walking and cycling. With adopting a little change in our policy for car use we can have better cities that can provide people with more options to be used as a transport mode. There will be no need of expensive flyovers and city dividers. If the car use pricing policy is effectively adopted can generate huge revenues for the city.