

# A Health Impact Assessment of Congestion Pricing Policy in San Francisco, California

Rajiv Bhatia, MD, MPH; Megan Wier, MPH; Jennifer McLaughlin, MS; Cyndy Scully, MA; Tom Rivard, MS, REHS  
 San Francisco Department of Public Health - Program on Health, Equity and Sustainability



**Policy:** The San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA) is studying the feasibility of area congestion pricing in downtown San Francisco. Under the proposed scenarios, the City would charge drivers \$3 to drive in the congested downtown area during weekday peak commute periods, potentially including freeway/bridge tolls. The SFCTA study includes a limited number of economic, environmental, equity, and transportation system performance impacts.



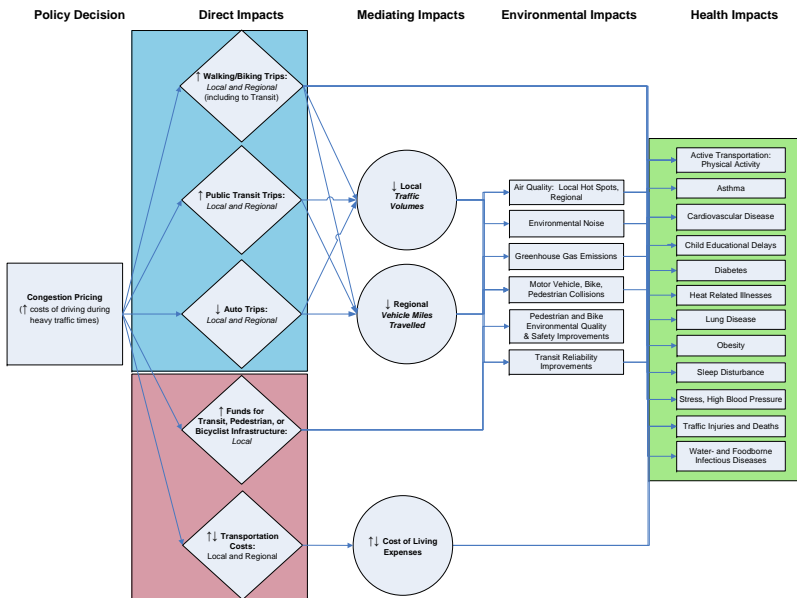
## Screening: Are the Conditions Ripe for HIA?

- Study area includes large portion of San Francisco's land area, residential, and employee populations
- Impact analysis is being conducted, but does not quantify health impacts
- Local and regional stakeholders concerned regarding policy impacts on air pollution, traffic hazards, and differential impacts based on geography, equity
- SFDPH has been developing and applying tools to assess the health impacts of traffic and transportation planning decisions
- Analyses could inform decisions being made regarding revenue investments in transportation services/infrastructure
- HIA framework and approach could be applied to future transportation policy and planning analyses at local, regional, and national levels



## Scoping: Winter 2010

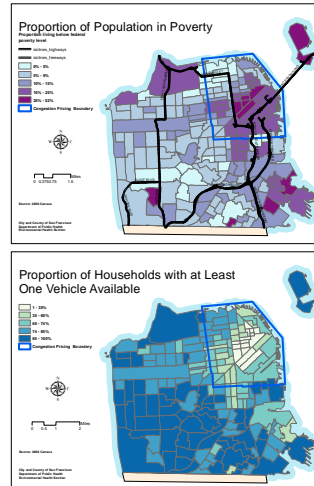
The HIA scope and the pathways (below) will be further developed in consult with a diverse group of local and regional community stakeholders representing health, environment, business, planning and other interests potentially impacted by congestion pricing.



### Particular subgroups of interest include:

- youth at high risk for physical inactivity and obesity
- youth, seniors, and other populations sensitive to air pollutants, noise disturbances
- youth at high risk of traffic-related injury, seniors at high risk of traffic-related death
- low-income, transit-dependent populations – historically disproportionately burdened by adverse health impacts of transportation planning decisions that channel motor vehicles into their communities

## Assessment: Spring - Summer 2010



### 1) Profile Baseline Conditions:

- Socio-demographic conditions
- Health-related behaviors – e.g., physical activity from active transportation, traffic-related injuries
- Transportation environment and pedestrian quality, existing air pollution and noise levels
- Resident and stakeholder perceptions of existing conditions and potential impacts

*Conduct population subgroup analyses (age, ethnicity, nationality, income, etc) factors identified by stakeholders) and assess potential place-based disparities in existing conditions or policy impacts.*

### 2) Apply forecasting methods, including SFDPH HIA Tools, to study impacts of alternative area-level congestion pricing schemes on:

- Motor vehicle collisions, including with pedestrians and bicyclists
- Pedestrian and bicycle conditions
- Active transportation, physical activity
- Air pollutant exposures, greenhouse gas emissions, and associated premature mortality
- Traffic-related noise and community noise-related annoyance and hypertension
- Economic impacts of air quality and collisions



## Reporting: Fall 2010

**Local stakeholders and decision makers:** Report findings via public presentations, written reports, and other outreach.

**Regional, state, and national stakeholders:** Report findings and implications for regional and national road pricing policy discussions via targeted online report dissemination, presentations at scientific conferences and peer-reviewed publications in interdisciplinary forums for transportation and public health researchers.

## Monitoring & Evaluation: Ongoing

### Interdisciplinary Consultation and Collaboration:

- Fehr & Peers** - Matthew Ridgway, AICP, PTP and Meghan Mitman, AICP
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, NIH** - John Balbus, MD, MPH
- San Francisco Injury Center** – Rochelle Dicker, MD and Dahianna Lopez, RN, MSN, MPH
- San Francisco Office of Economic Analysis** - Kurt Fuchs
- UC Berkeley, School of Public Health** - Edmund Seto, PhD