

CEAR / FHWA Panel Review: Experimental Economics Examination of Congestion Pricing

Monday, December 5, 2011

General Information

Experimental economics has been successfully used in examining tax compliance, public goods, political economy, tax incidence, game-theoretic models of imperfect competition, willingness to pay and other experiments. This research examines price incentives focused on congestion and road pricing of highway services. Large urban areas currently experience hours of congestion with large economic costs while at the same time, public funding for highways has been decreasing - simply building more roads is not an option either financially or environmentally. By examining participants risk attitudes, this research will improve the understanding as to how travelers make decisions when faced with road pricing and congestion. In the long term this innovative research will expand evidence-based methods for setting user-based highway fees and will assist policy makers with robust decisions concerning the provision of highway services and pricing.

This panel review meeting will focus on the research hypothesis, design, implementation and analysis. The 3-year research effort is entering its 2nd year and has completed several important milestones including experimental design, implementation and completion of 2 of the 3 participant sessions.

Organizers

Lisa Rutstrom (GSU) and Karen White (FHWA) are the organizers of this workshop. Funding is being provided from FHWA and the Center for the Economic Analysis of Risk (CEAR) at Georgia State University. See cear.gsu.edu for more information on CEAR. Contact Rutstrom at erutstrom@gsu.edu about the substance of the workshop, and contact Mark Schneider at cear@gsu.edu with questions about participation and logistics.

Dates & Times

Monday 12/5 – 9:00am to 5:00pm. Refreshments and lunch will be provided by CEAR. Contact Mark Schneider at cear@gsu.edu for special dietary needs.

Location

The CEAR Seminar Room is on the 11th floor of the J. Mack Robinson College of Business at Georgia State University. Here is a map link to [CEAR](#); the physical address is 35 Broad Street, **11th Floor**, Atlanta, GA 30303.

Directions

MARTA Subway:

CEAR is located 1 block North of the Five Points Marta Rail Station in Downtown Atlanta; one-way Rail Ride cost \$2.50. Tickets can be easily purchased from vending machines at all MARTA stations. This is by far the easiest method, and is on a direct line to Atlanta International Airport. Here is a map of the [MARTA rail system](#).

Driving:

From Interstate 75/85 (the connector) **going NORTH** take exit 248B for Edgewood Ave toward Auburn Ave / J W Dobbs Ave. Turn left at Edgewood Ave SE and proceed 0.7 miles. Turn right at Marietta St. NW. The next intersection is Broad St. and where our facility is located. There is no street parking available nearby; however, there are pay lots and garages nearby. Costs range from \$5 to \$10 depending on the lot/garage used.

From Interstate 75/85 (the connector) **going SOUTH** take exit 248D for J W Dobbs Ave toward Jesse Hill Dr. Slight left at Jesse Hill Jr. Dr. NE. Turn right at Edgewood Ave SE and proceed 0.6 miles. Turn right at Marietta St. NW. The next intersection is Broad St. and where our facility is located. There is no street parking available nearby; however, there are pay lots and garages nearby. Costs range from \$5 to \$10 depending on the lot/garage used.

Lodging

CEAR recommends lodging at The Ellis Hotel, which is walking distance to CEAR. Their information: 176 Peachtree Street Northwest, Atlanta, GA 30303. (404) 523-5155 ellishotel.com.

Program

Monday, December 5

9:00 – 9:10 AM	Introductions – Glenn Harrison, Director CEAR (Georgia State University)
9:10 - 9:55 AM	Welcome, Expectations and Objectives – Karen White, FHWA
9:25 – 11:00 AM	Overview of Experiments on Driving under Uncertain Congestion Conditions with Congestion Pricing Incentives: Hypotheses, Design, Implementation and Analysis – Elisabet Rutstrom (Georgia State University)
11:00 – 11:15 AM	<i>Coffee Break (CEAR provided)</i>
11:15 AM – 12:00 PM	Data Discussion – Glenn Harrison
12:00 – 1:00 PM	<i>Lunch Break (CEAR provided)</i>
1:00 – 2:45 PM	Other Studies – Remote Attendees will be able to access this portion of the meeting by calling 877-336-1839, Access Code 5615497 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jim Cox (Georgia State University)• Dan Friedman (University of California, Santa Cruz) “Traffic congestion and other games played in continuous time”• Nat Wilcox (Chapman) “Risk Econometrics: Some Risks”• Jane Lapin (RITA / Volpe)• Georgia Toll Road Update• Saad Shbaklo (Florida Turnpike Enterprise)
2:45 – 3:00 PM	<i>Coffee Break(CEAR provided)</i>
3:00 – 5:00 PM	Panel Discussion of Research