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Spatial Economics Research Centre

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Road Pricing

A [new report from the IFS](#) makes the case for road pricing:

"Such a move would generate substantial economic efficiency gains from reduced congestion, reduce the tax levied on the majority of miles driven, leave many (particularly rural) motorists better off, and provide a stable long-term footing for motoring taxes without necessarily raising net additional revenue from drivers," the IFS said.

No arguments here, but the [political economy remains horrible](#): economic efficiency arguments are a hard sell relative to emotive ones around freedom of movement, impact on business etc. I don't know if there is any evidence to suggest that the argument that this would replace other vehicle excise taxes would be enough to placate those so bitterly opposed. Depressingly, I suspect not.

Posted by [Prof Henry G. Overman](#) on [Tuesday, May 15, 2012](#)

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