

# MBUF III

Breckenridge, Colorado  
2011.06.14

## 6: Roles of the Public and Private Sectors

# History, Manifesto, Recipe & Proposal

Bern Grush

History of tolls starts in Greek mythology...



Charon - Alexander Dmitrievich Litovchenko, 1889

Charon charged a toll to carry the dead across the Styx. If a toll was not paid, the soul wandered between death and life for eternity.

The god **Embuftus** of Transportus

“... if drivers do not pay a toll they will forever crawl in congestion between work and family.”



Cornelius Krieghoff "The Tollgate", 1863



1857



1859



1861



1863

# How to End the War on Cars:

## Manifesto for the New Automobility

The rise and rise  
of the automobile

Two billion cars  
by 2025

Daniel Sperling

One

The car is  
not wrong

...thoughtless  
use is

Why demonize what is not  
going away?

Better to have car as  
customer than pariah

Leverage ubiquity and  
preference for SOV for  
funding

Focus design on TDM

Two

Switch

...from fuel tax  
to road use tax

Take advantage of  
Peak Oil

Offer rewards to early  
volunteers

Thomas Friedman &  
Dan Akerson in reverse

**Three**

**Voluntary**

**...is the only path  
to acceptance**

You can't make me...

...but you can tempt me

- Make it fairer
- Make it convenient
- Make it pay off
- Make it fun
- Reward smart driving
- Offer services
  
- ...build the platform



**Four**

**Parking**

**...is the on-ramp  
to road-use  
metering**

Drivers understand  
paying for parking

Drivers do not  
understand paying for  
road-use

Go to regional councils,  
DOTs seldom have  
parking mandate

**Five**

**Make safety**

**...a key change  
driver**

***Easy*** to say “no” to VMT  
Charging

***Hard*** to say “no” to safety

The *Connected Vehicle*  
opens both doors at once

DOTs and industry  
already collaborate, here

**Six**

**Demand  
Management first**

**...funding  
sustainability  
follows easily**

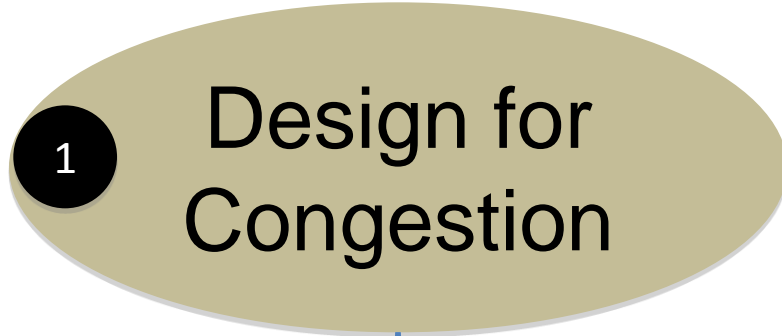
TDM fix requires  
intelligence

Funding fix requires  
courage

It is easier to be smart  
than brave

Design for TDM = \$\$  
Design for \$\$  $\neq$  TDM

Time, distance, place, vehicle type



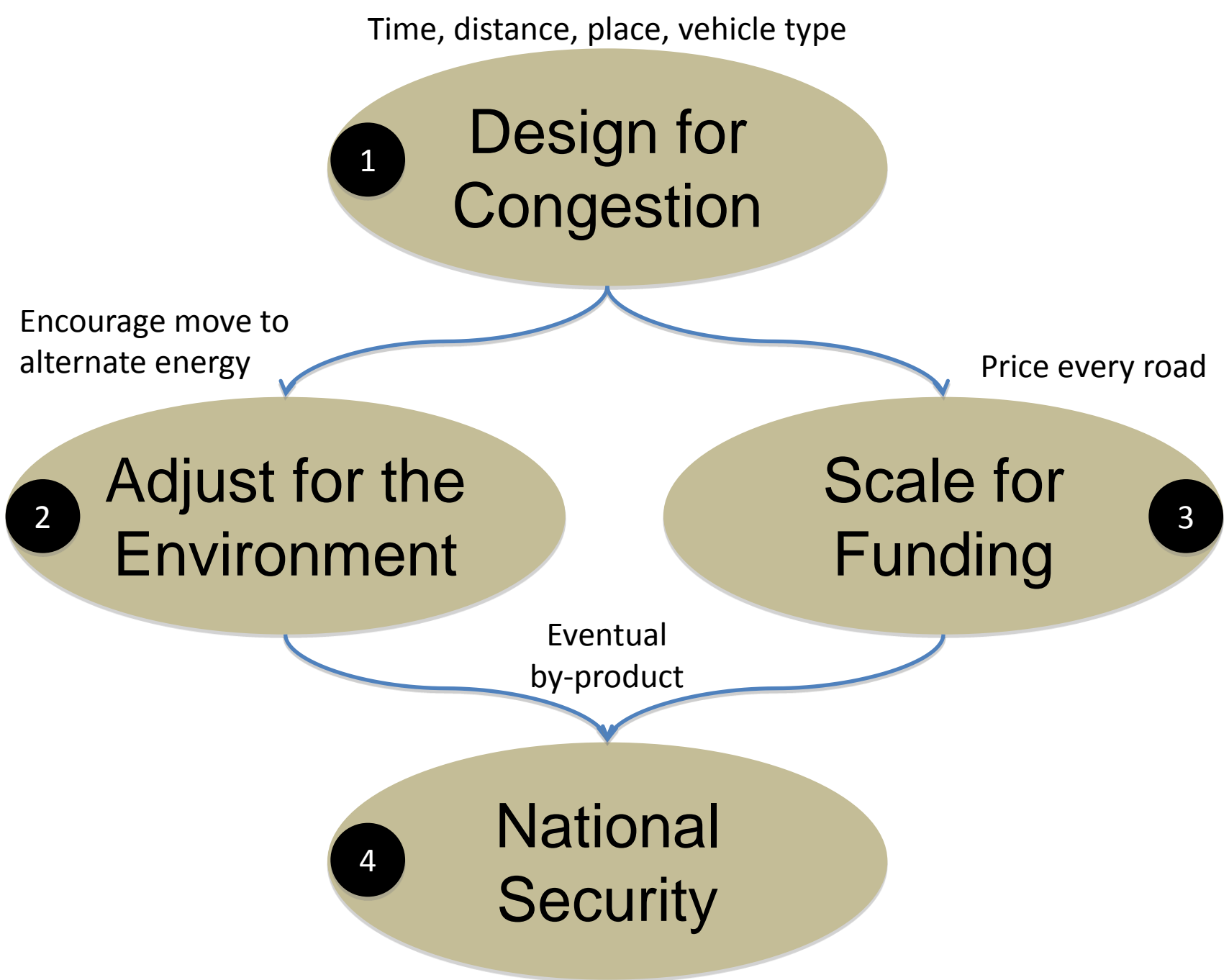
Encourage move to alternate energy



Price every road



Eventual by-product



**Seven**

**Government  
mandates**

**...industry  
operates**

Democratic governments  
are unable to toll private  
cars...via MBUF

Score to date:

- one million heavy trucks
- zero cars

14 distinct barriers

- Voluntary can skirt all of them

1. The “what-for” confusion
2. The privacy misunderstanding
3. The dedicated charge-collection barrier
4. The car-wars mistake
5. The “better way” trap
6. The bad for the poor trip wire
7. The “transit first” roadblock
8. The surprising psychology of transport pricing
9. The “we don’t believe you” excuse
10. The “we don’t trust you” factor
11. The referendum blunder
12. The politics of congestion pricing
13. The rebound effect
14. The misunderstanding of what “road-user” means

**Eight**

**Services first**

**...tolling second**

Complete the shift by  
2025...

...by giving users 2.5x  
incremental value over  
status quo starting now

**Nine**

**Megaregions**

**...not states or  
nations**

Most SOV driving happens within a single megaregion

Consistent, valuable services throughout will attract volunteers

NYCDOT leads here



Ten

Focus on equity

...deal with  
[perceptions of]  
unfairness

Technology solved

Cost solved

Privacy solved

**Equity is not solved**  
... fear of the unknown

# Government View

*Mandate vs Invite*



Value-Added  
Services

Tolling

# Industry View



Tolling

Value-Added  
Services

# Role of the Public Sector

## Seed sustainable programs

- Megaregion programs
  - e.g., NYCDOT's DriveSmart
- Parking reform
- PAYDI
- ENGO rewards
- Loyalty rewards
- **not** technology trials

## Ensure

- Audit
- Standards
- Interoperability
- Privacy
- Equity
- Access
- Public Transit

# Privacy

## International Working Group on Data Protection in Telecommunications

### Guideline for RUC systems:

- Maintain anonymity of the driver
- Delete detailed trip data on settlement
- Process personal data only for purposes agreed
- Do not ascertain identity of driver or owner

Location anonymous GPS smart meters are more private than DSRC/RFID, ANPR, Cellular, or Credit cards

Role of the  
**Private Sector**

Innovate Systems and  
Equipment

*Acceptance by a  
Thousand Services™*

Incredible customer care

Make drivers happy

Make TDM profitable

# Tollways, Fall 2010

BY BERN GRUSH

**Editor's Note:** The author is the founder and chief scientist at Skymeter Corporation, which develops and sells products that use GPS technology for road pricing, insurance and parking management applications.



## WHAT WOULD STEVE JOBS DO?

If Steve Jobs were to design a dash-top device that handled road use payments, what would such an *iVMTcharger (US)* or *iTDPcharger (EU)* look like? You might suppose he wouldn't be caught dead doing that, but what if he figured there was a market for one in nearly every vehicle in the US, Europe and Asia in 2015–2025 for when we can no longer ignore the failing ability of fuel taxes to fund our roads, or start using alternative power sources and the gas tax dries up, or when we start doing something about congestion as we keep talking about? What will road user fee collection look like then?

### IF STEVE JOBS WERE TO DESIGN A DASH-TOP DEVICE THAT HANDLED ROAD USE PAYMENTS, WHAT WOULD SUCH A DEVICE LOOK LIKE?

Imagine how Jobs would think about the design of *acceptable* road tolling telematics. And he'd expand that thinking far beyond tolling only limited access interstate or interurban routes. He'd imagine a system capable of replacing the fuel tax. Or tolling all roads as the Dutch announced they would do.

Jobs likes customers to line up outside mobility stores starting the night before product release to be first to get an *iWhatever*. So his thinking would be one far cry from a simple \$12 transponder. Of course, the cost of low-end road tolling telematics must be dramatically less than an iPhone — perhaps closer to \$50–70.

# Market framework

## NCHRP/RAND (2010.10)

- demonstrate MBUF

## Government

- regulate
- seed infrastructure provider  
not the toll operator

## Industry

- invest
- innovate
- build sustainable services

**NYCDOT**

**SmartDrive**  
(RFEI)

## Offspring of PlaNYC

(Note Megaregion perspective)

### Industry asked:

- Invest in Trials
- Ideas
- Services
  - safety
  - money-saving
  - time saving



**How to start...**

**National auction  
for four mobility  
payment service  
operators**

**Like the \$17B 3G spectrum  
auction of 2000/2001**

Minimum bid \$1B (\$4B)

10 year non-compete

Use proceeds to incent:

- PAYDI
- Satellite parking
- Zero-infrastructure tolling
- Safety programs
- Rewards programs
- Loyalty programs
- others

**A journey of a  
thousand miles  
begins with a  
single step**

**Confucius**

Thank you.

**Elevator Version**

4 slides

***“Government  
can’t toll roads”***

- Grushhour 2010-06-24

**(Government  
cannot mandate  
the shift from fuel  
tax to MBUF)**

Barriers

Knowledge

Narrow focus

Politics

2.5 factor

**Industry  
can toll roads**

PPP

Telcos

Knowledge

Broad focus

Motivation

Customer Service