



⊕ Journal information

⊕ Editorial board

⊕ Back issues

⊕ Instructions to authors

⊕ Search EJTIR

[print deze pagina](#)

## Recent progress in the measurement of external costs and implications for transport pricing reforms

Gunnar Lindberg  
Swedish National Road Transport Research Institute (VTI)  
Solna  
Sweden  
E-mail: [gunnar.lindberg@vti.se](mailto:gunnar.lindberg@vti.se)



[Full text pdf](#)

### Abstract

The external cost of transport has been discussed in the European transport policy since the 60s. However, it was not until the mid-90s that the European Commission decided on a pricing policy for the transport sector. This policy has stimulated a wide array of new research on the external cost of transport. A survey of some of the most recent studies in the area displays a clear picture; the latest studies are clearly focused on the marginal external cost and based on detailed bottom-up methods. The paper summarise the methods used to estimate some of the components of the marginal cost of transport - marginal infrastructure cost, congestion and scarcity cost, accident and environmental cost. The survey displays the huge variation in the estimates that follows from the use of more detailed databases. While this may be perceived as a problem for blunt pricing policies the paper suggests that it highlights the need for a more refined pricing policy in the transport sector.

Received: December 2002<sup>1</sup>

Accepted: April 2004

<sup>1</sup>An earlier version of this paper was presented at the second seminar of the IMPRINT-EUROPE Thematic Network: "Implementing Reform on Transport Pricing: Identifying Mode-Specific Issues", Brussels, 14th/15th May 2002.

*This article has appeared on paper in: European Journal of Transport and Infrastructure Research, Vol. 3, No 4 (2003), pp. 387-400.*

#### EJTIR Alert service

Subscribe to the  
EJTIR Alert service