

# SPUR

**Ideas + Action for a Better City**

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# The future of funding for transportation infrastructure

Alan Jenn, PhD

Institute of Transportation Studies

University of California, Davis

# Two large disruptors for funding infrastructure

Much of the road infrastructure in the United States is paid for by the gasoline tax, a “use fee” for driving on the road.

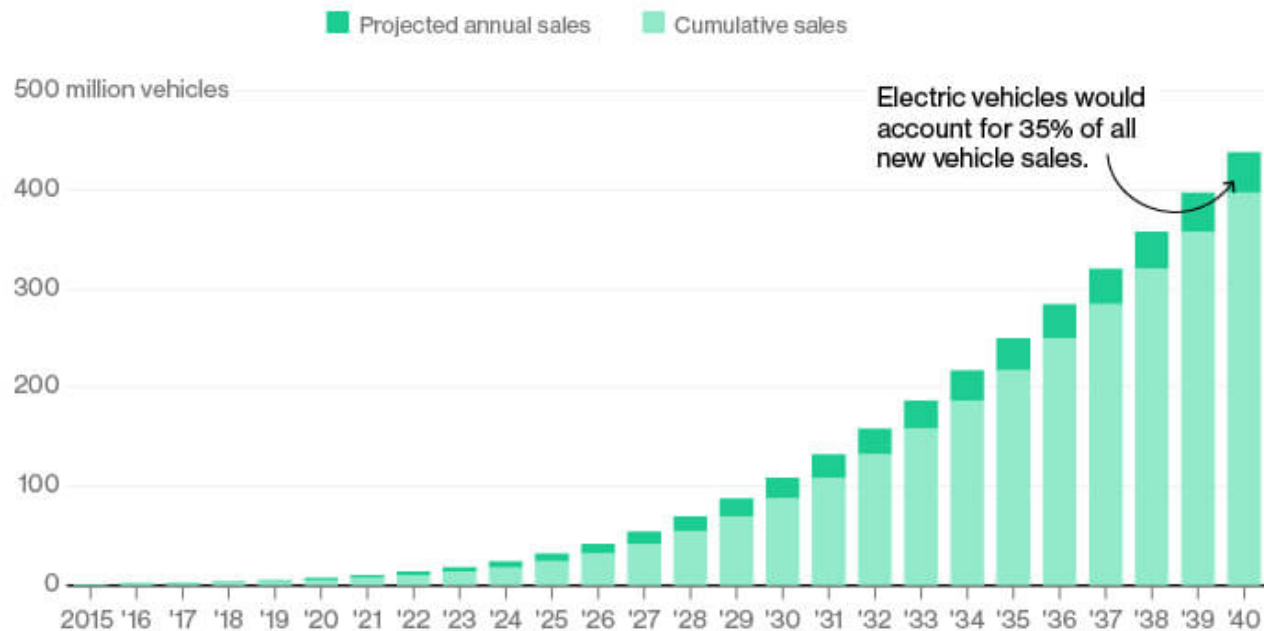
The landscape of transportation has led to shortfalls in funding due to:

1. Improvements in fuel efficiency
2. Increased share of electric vehicles

# The adoption of electric vehicles

## The Rise of Electric Cars

By 2022 electric vehicles will cost the same as their internal-combustion counterparts. That's the point of liftoff for sales.



Sources: Data compiled by Bloomberg New Energy Finance, Marklines

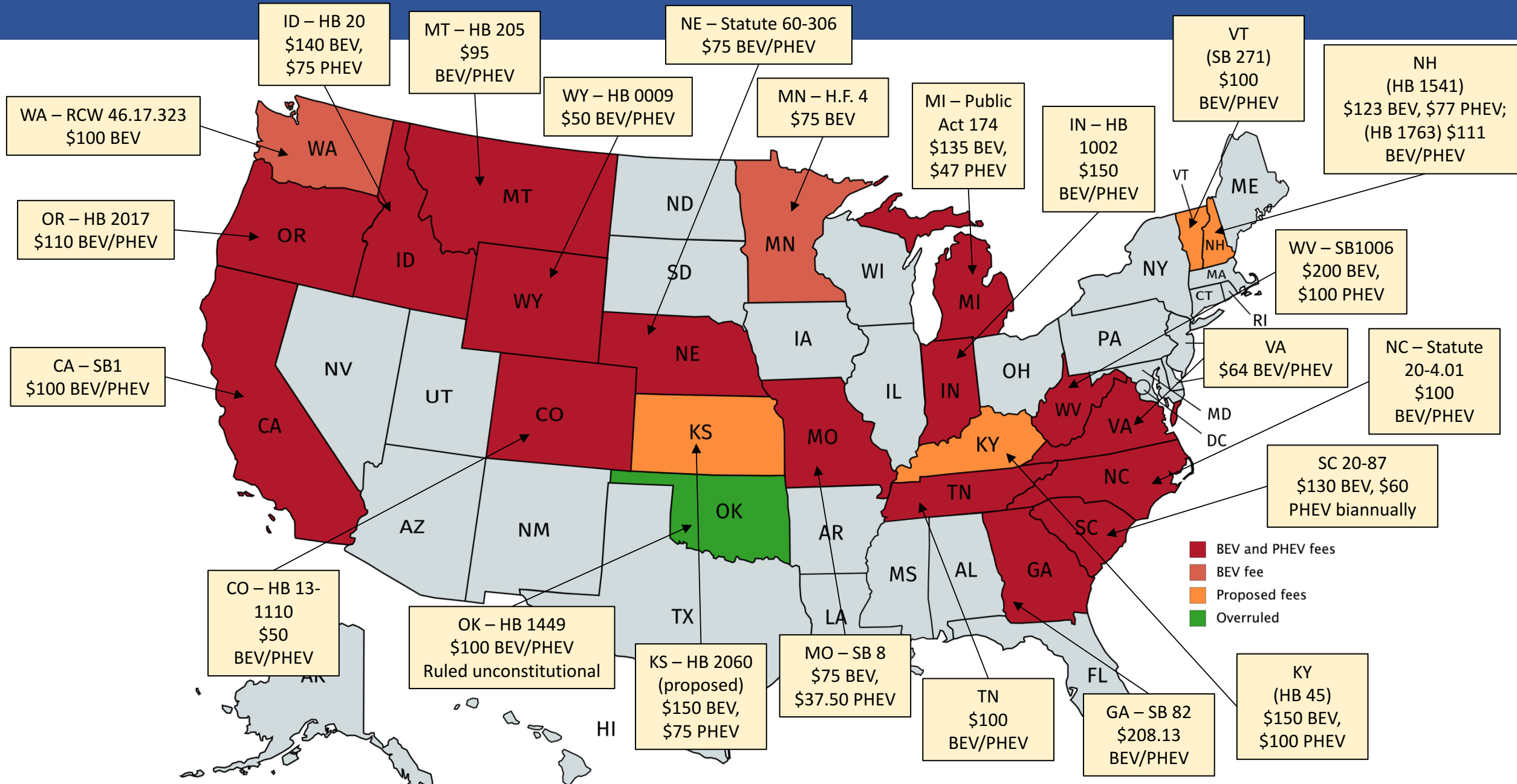


- California's ZEV mandate and governor's goals will mean high adoption of plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs)
- Electric vehicles do not pay any fuel taxes towards funding infrastructure that they use



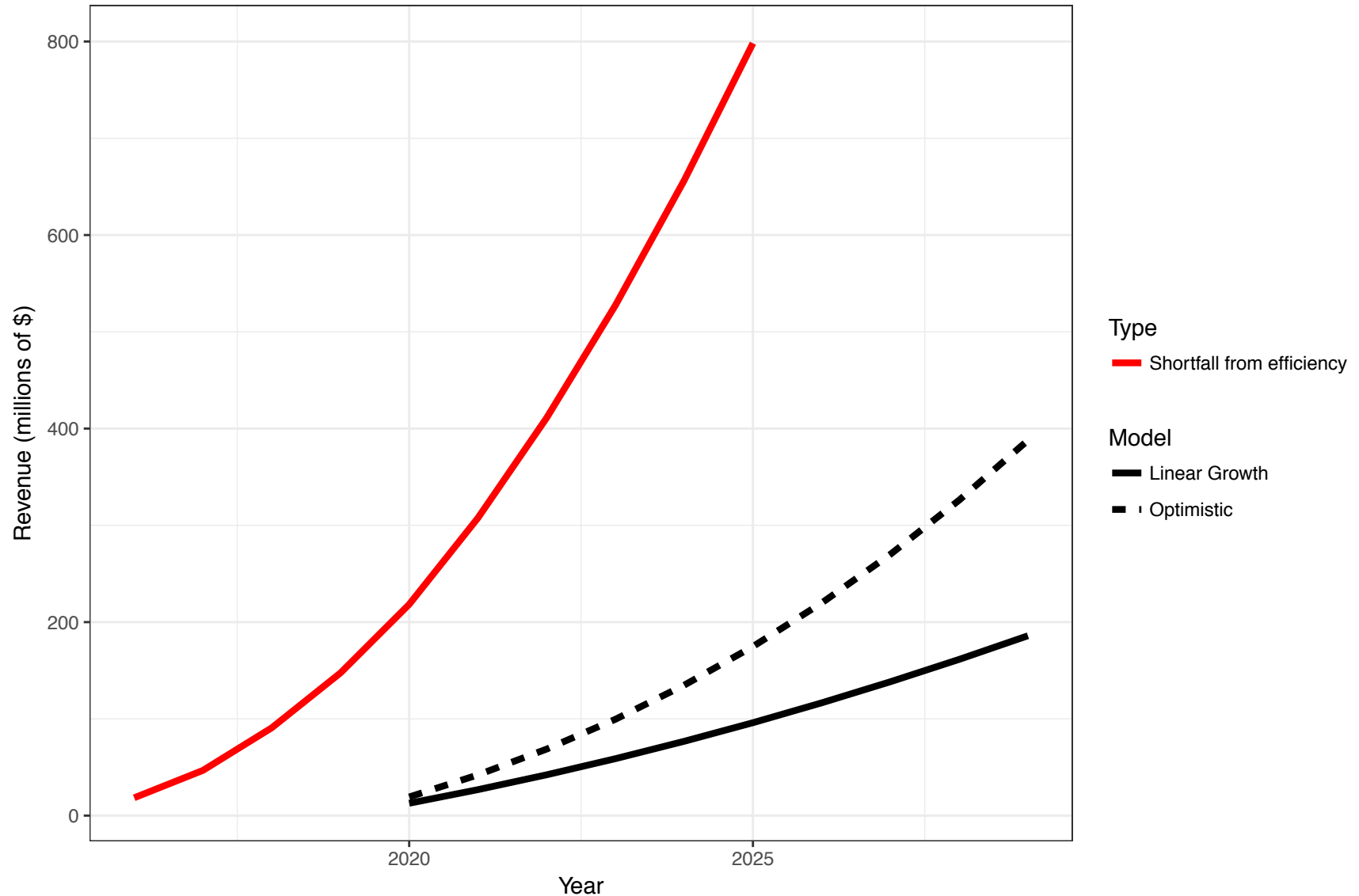
# California's Senate Bill 1

- On April 28, 2017 the California legislature and governor passed SB1:
  - \$0.12 per gallon increase in the motor vehicle fuel (gasoline) tax (Nov 1, 2017)
  - \$0.20 per gallon increase in the motor vehicle fuel (diesel) tax (Nov 1, 2017)
  - \$25-\$175 annual transportation improvement fee (Jan 1, 2018)
  - \$100 annual registration fee for zero-emission motor vehicles (Jul 1, 2020)
- An additional complicating factor is that there is a repeal measure for SB1 on the ballot this November.



- BEV and PHEV fees
- BEV fee
- Proposed fees
- Overruled

# Expected shortfall from gasoline efficiency gains



# What about alternative fuel vehicles?

The Institute of Transportation Studies at UC Davis is current conducting a study to assess the following pricing schemes on the its ability to provide sustainable funding, the complexity of the policy, and how difficult it is to implement:

- Electricity charge, \$/kWh
- Energy fee, \$/gas equivalent
- Road charge, uniform mileage fee, \$/mi
- Advanced road charge, incorporating other pricing mechanisms
  - Potential mechanisms include: efficiency, occupancy, congestion, etc.



# Rolling out road charges on a PEV platform

- Road charge only for electric miles (e-miles)
- Our study has constraints of operationalizing pricing exclusively for PEVs, but this actually offers several benefits:
  - No need to get rid of gasoline tax
  - Addresses fuel transition issue
  - Gradual rollout is easier to implement since PEVs are lower volume
  - Lower administrative costs: no need for refund checks

# Key Takeaways

- The actual difference between fees (electricity versus energy versus mileage) is relatively marginal, the fees can be structured to provide similar revenues
- Key considerations are political feasibility, complexity of implementation, and costs
- Roll out on the electric vehicle platform can avoid many of the above issues



SFMTA

# Demand-responsive parking pricing

SPUR Forum: The High Cost of Free Driving

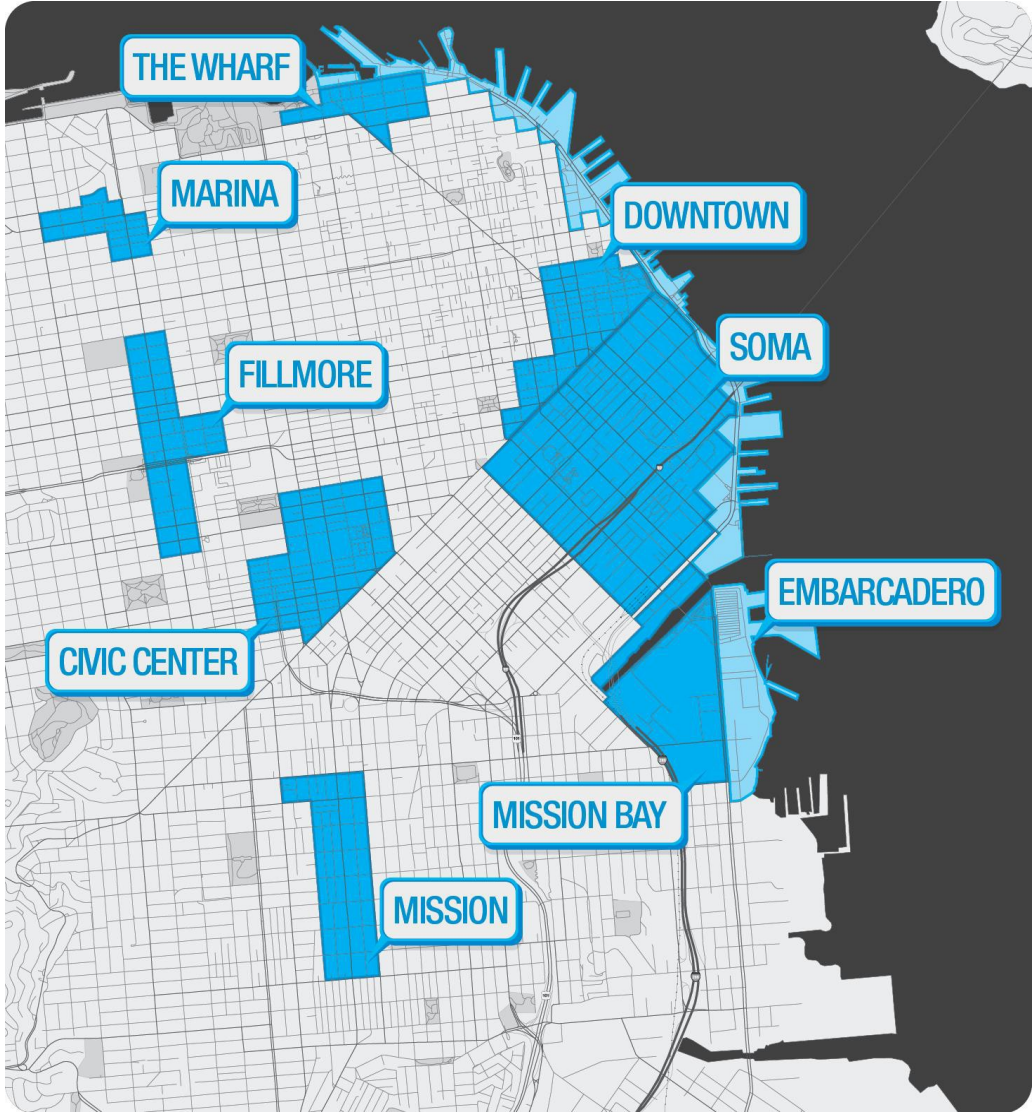
July 12, 2018



# Goals of project

- Reduce congestion
- Make parking easier to find
- Reduce circling for parking
- Help small businesses
- Transparent, data-driven rate-setting process

# SFpark pilot



# Demand-responsive pricing

- Transparent, data-driven process
- Adjustments every quarter based on occupancy
  - 80% or above: +\$0.25/hour
  - 60-80%: no change
  - Below 60%: -\$0.25/hour
- Prices vary by block, time of day, weekday v. weekend

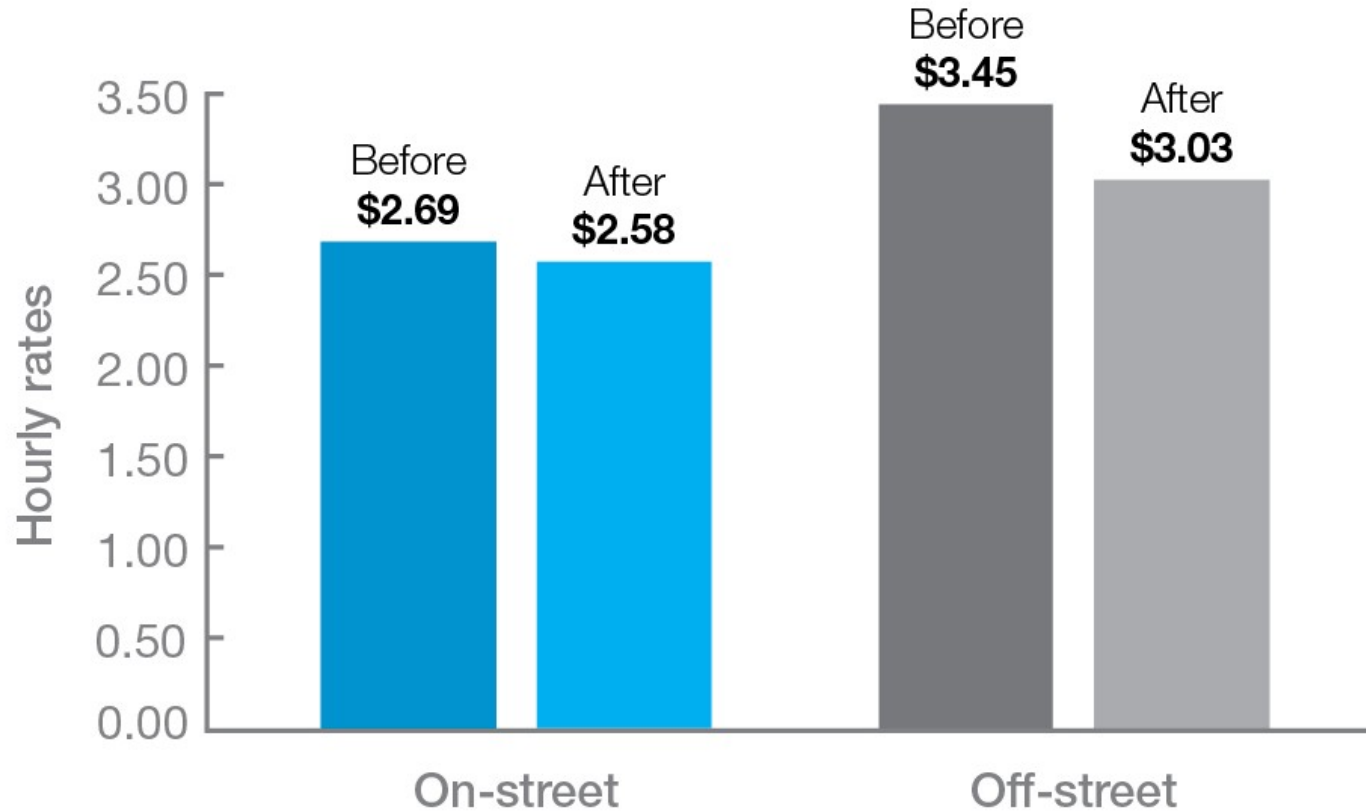


# SFpark pilot evaluation

## Hourly parking rates in SFpark areas

Before vs. after (10 rate changes)

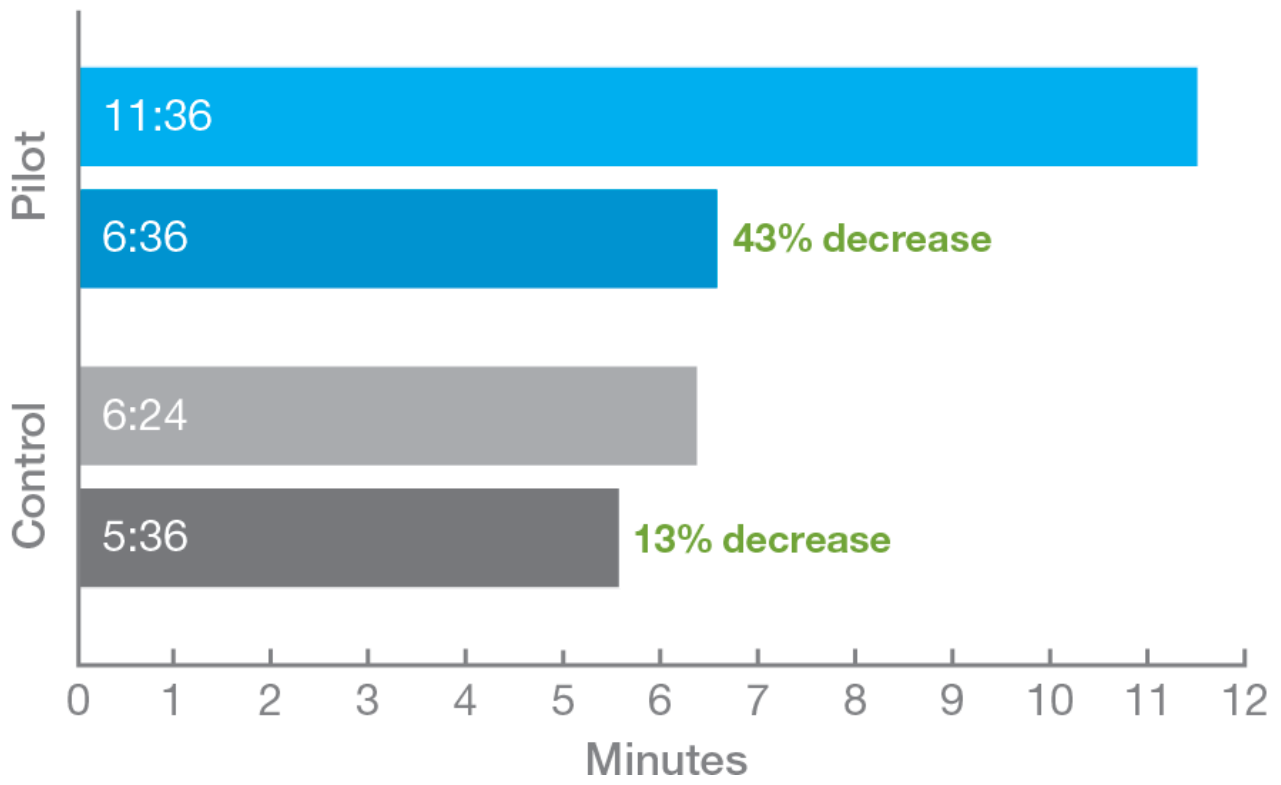
On- and off-street rates



# SFpark pilot evaluation

## Parking search time (minutes)

Reported search times, before vs. after  
Pilot vs. control areas | Weekdays 9am to 6pm



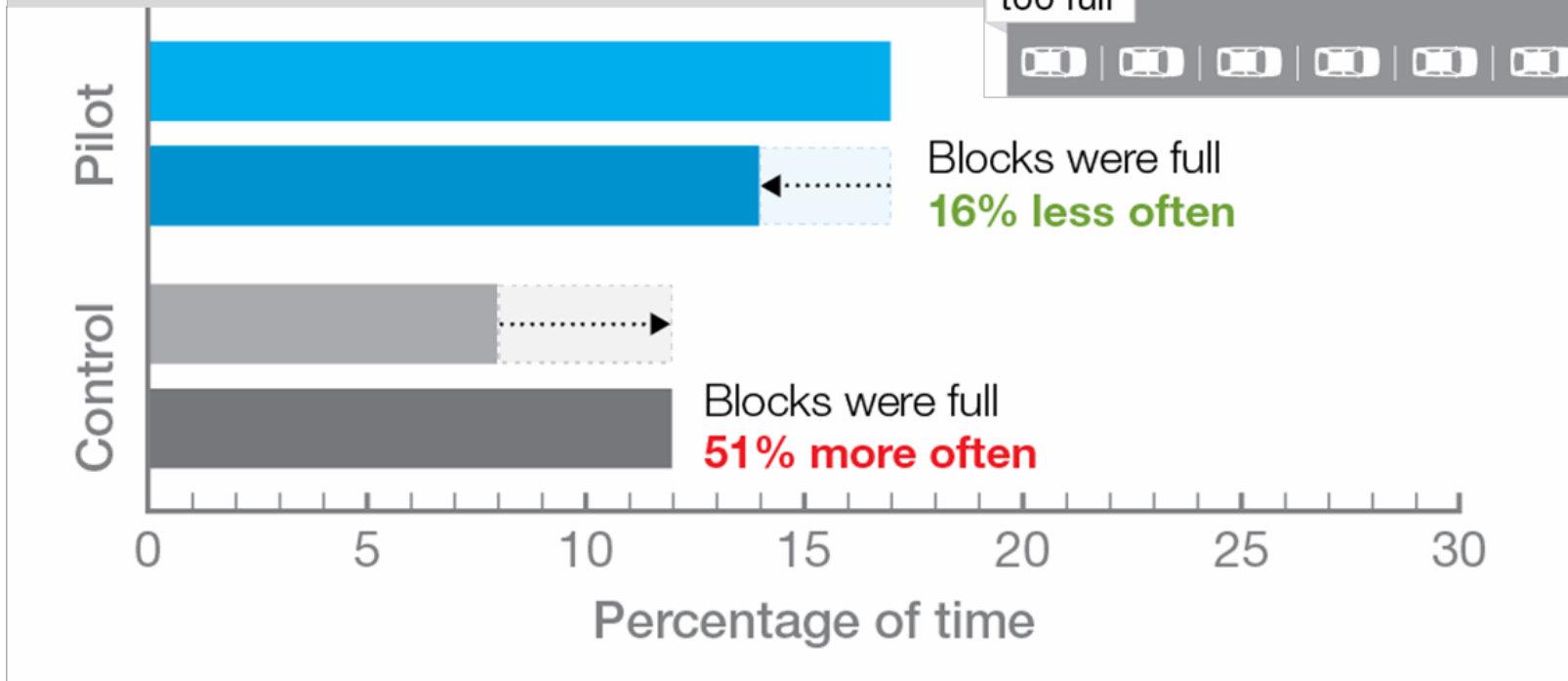
# SFpark pilot evaluation

## How often are blocks too full?

Before vs. After; 90-100% occupancy, hourly frequency

Pilot and Control Areas

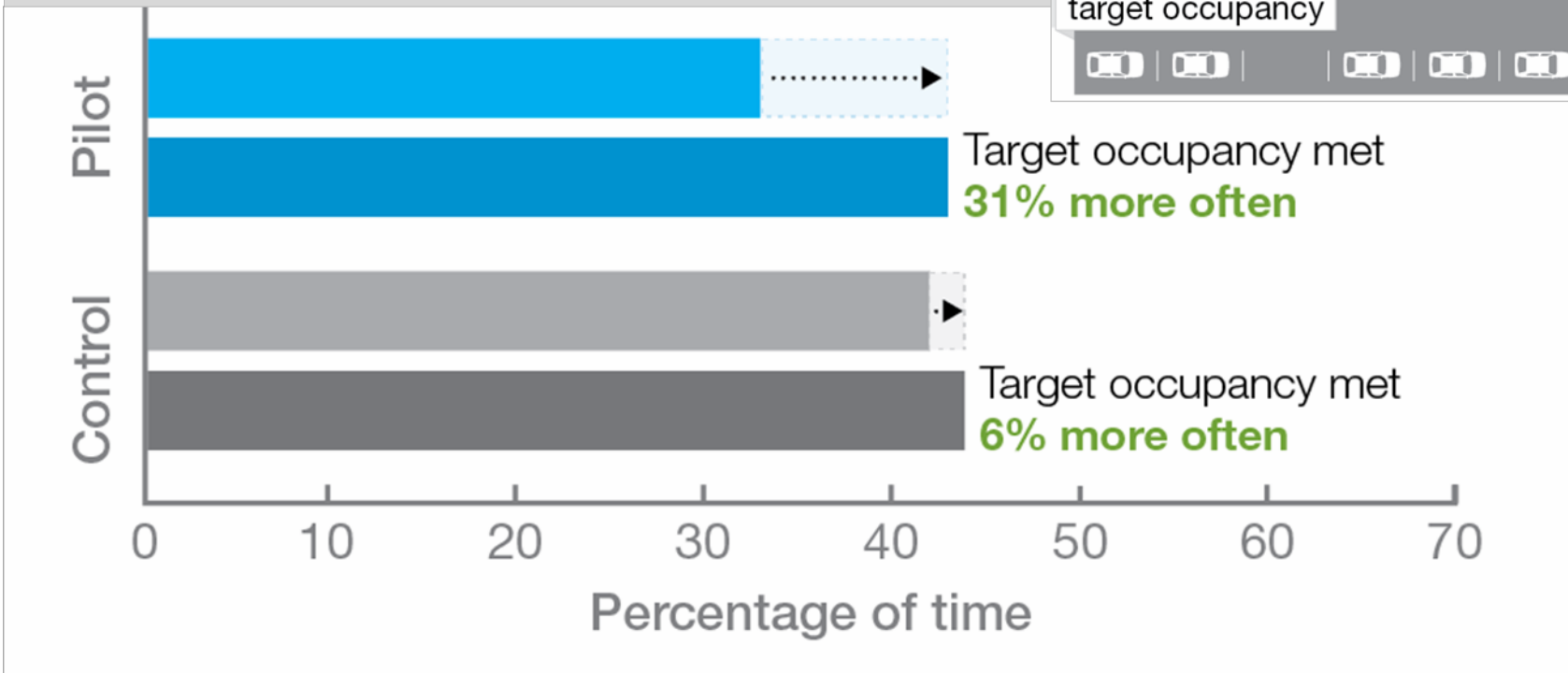
Weekdays 9am to 6pm



# SFpark pilot evaluation

## How often do blocks meet target occupancy?

Before vs. After; 60-80% occupancy  
Hourly frequency; Pilot and Control Areas  
Weekdays 9am to 6pm



# SFpark pilot evaluation



Fillmore District  
Weekday Hourly Rates  
3PM-6PM

Rate Effective July 2017

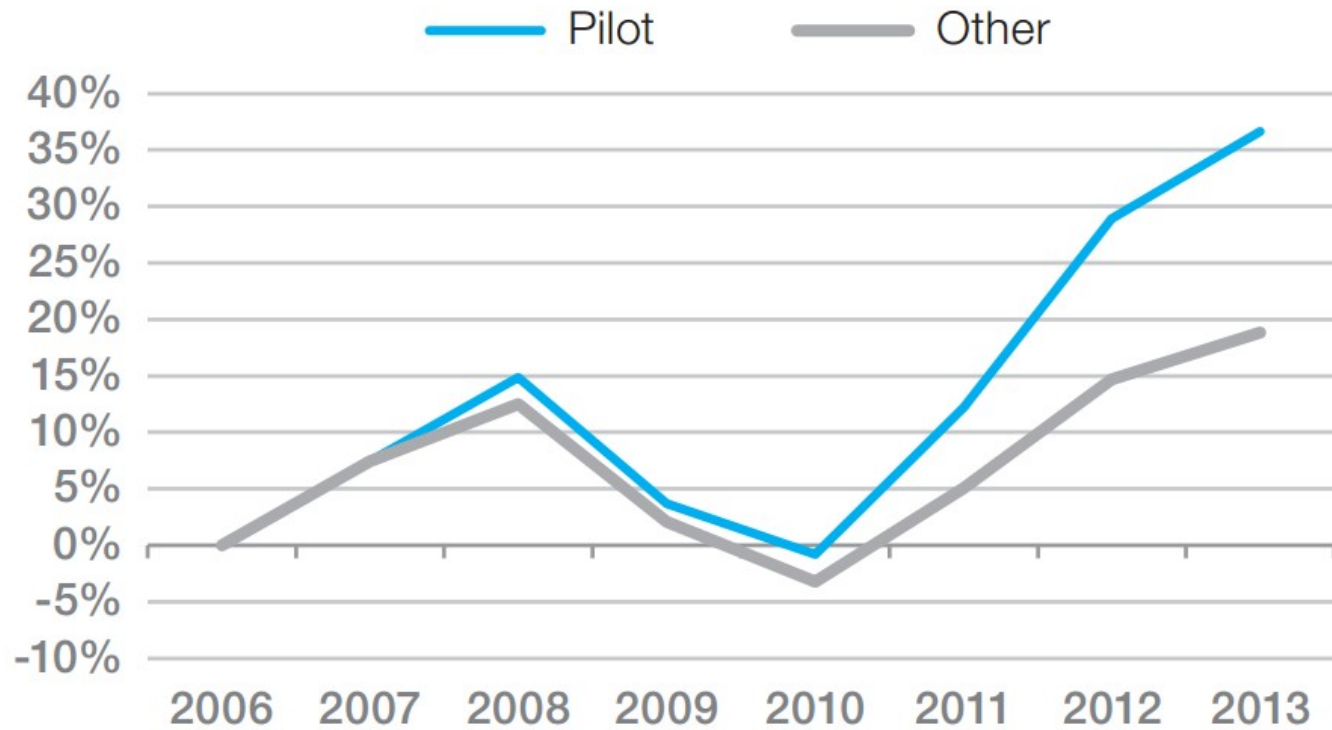
- \$.50 - \$2.25
- \$2.50 - \$4.75
- \$5.00 - \$6.75



# SFpark pilot evaluation

## Change in sales tax revenue, FY2006–2013

Food product, general retail and miscellaneous;  
chain stores excluded



# SFpark pilot evaluation

Daily greenhouse gas emissions (metric tons)

Before vs. after

Pilot vs. control areas | Weekdays 9am to 6pm



Pilot

30% decrease

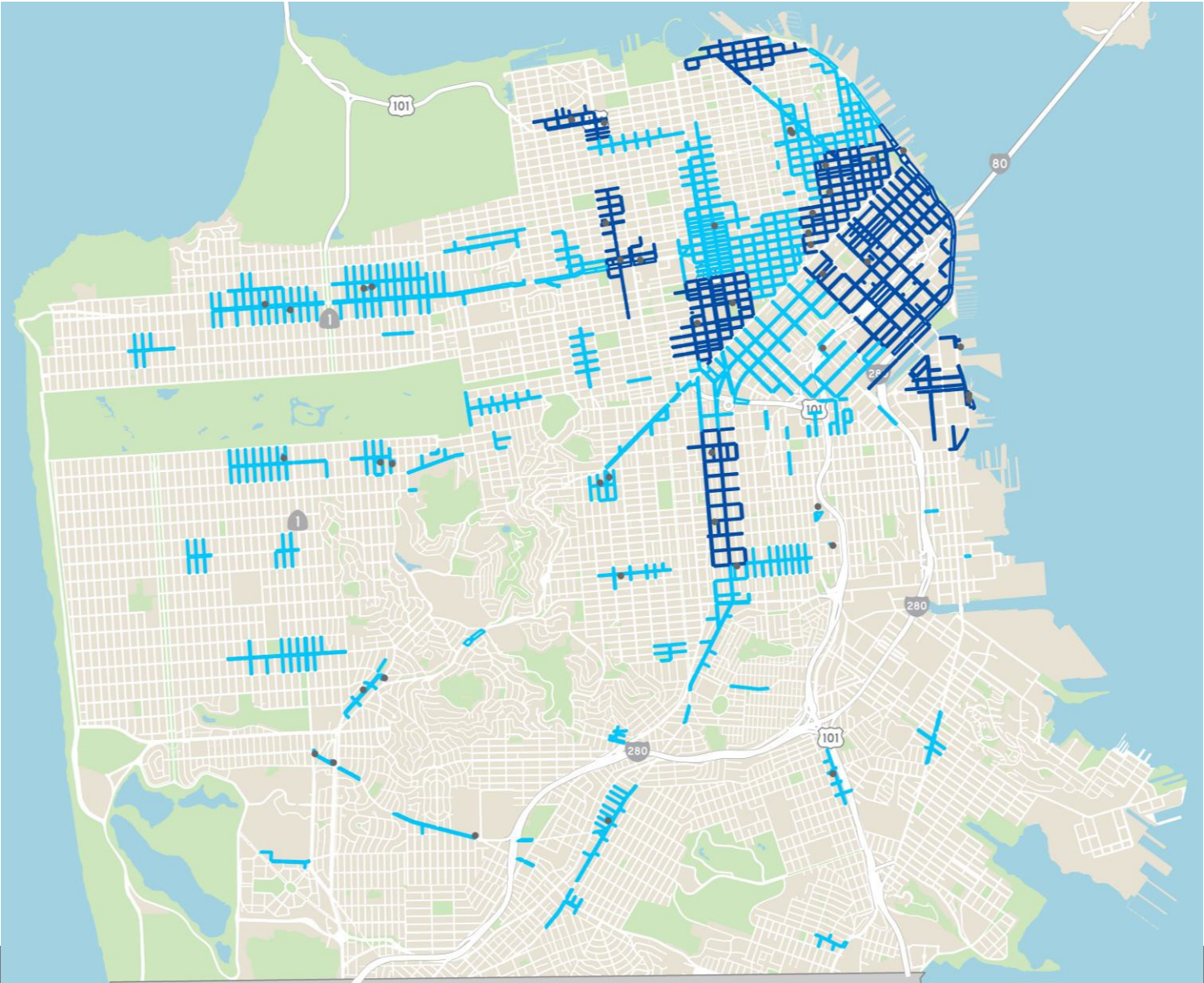
Control

before: 2.7

6% decrease

after: 2.5

# Citywide demand-responsive pricing



# Answering important questions

- **Question:** will the City start to charge \$8 per hour everywhere?
- **Answer:**
  - No
  - In SFpark areas, no blocks are \$8/hour
  - About 11% of rates are at \$0.50/hour, < 0.5% have reached \$7/hour
  - Average rates went down during the pilot
  - Test of citywide rate adjustment: small overall average reduction in rates

# Answering important questions

- **Question:** is this “surge” pricing?
- **Answer:**
  - No
  - Surge pricing only goes up—here, prices go up/down/same depending on demand
  - Surge pricing is a sudden, unexpected change in price—this is regular, gradual price adjustments, announced in advance
  - Surge pricing can be 1.5x or 2x—this is small, incremental price adjustments (no more than \$0.25/hour each quarter)

# Answering important questions

- **Question:** doesn't this just limit parking to those with more money?
- **Answer:**
  - No
  - Average rates went down during the pilot
  - Usually much cheaper rates within a block
  - Test of citywide rate adjustment: overall average rate will not change

# Answering important questions

- **Question:** is this just a way for SFMTA to generate more revenue?
- **Answer:**
  - No
  - Overall average rate will not change
  - Revenue impact expected to be minimal
  - Data-driven, rather than budget-driven, approach to setting rates

# Answering important questions

- **Question:** how will people know meter prices before they park at a meter?
- **Answer:**
  - Interactive, mobile-friendly webmap on SFMTA.com shows all rates
  - Regular users will learn where the rates differ



# Thank you

Mari Hunter

Principal Planner, SFMTA

[mari.hunter@sfmta.com](mailto:mari.hunter@sfmta.com)



# The high cost of free driving

July 12, 2018



Ideas + Action  
for a Better City

# Overview

1. What kind of costs are we talking about?
2. What exactly are the high costs of free driving?
3. What can we learn from grocery bags?
4. How could we make transportation better with pricing?
5. Can pricing be equitable?

**What kind of costs are we talking about?**



**The kind where the ones who pay did not create the problem in the first place.**

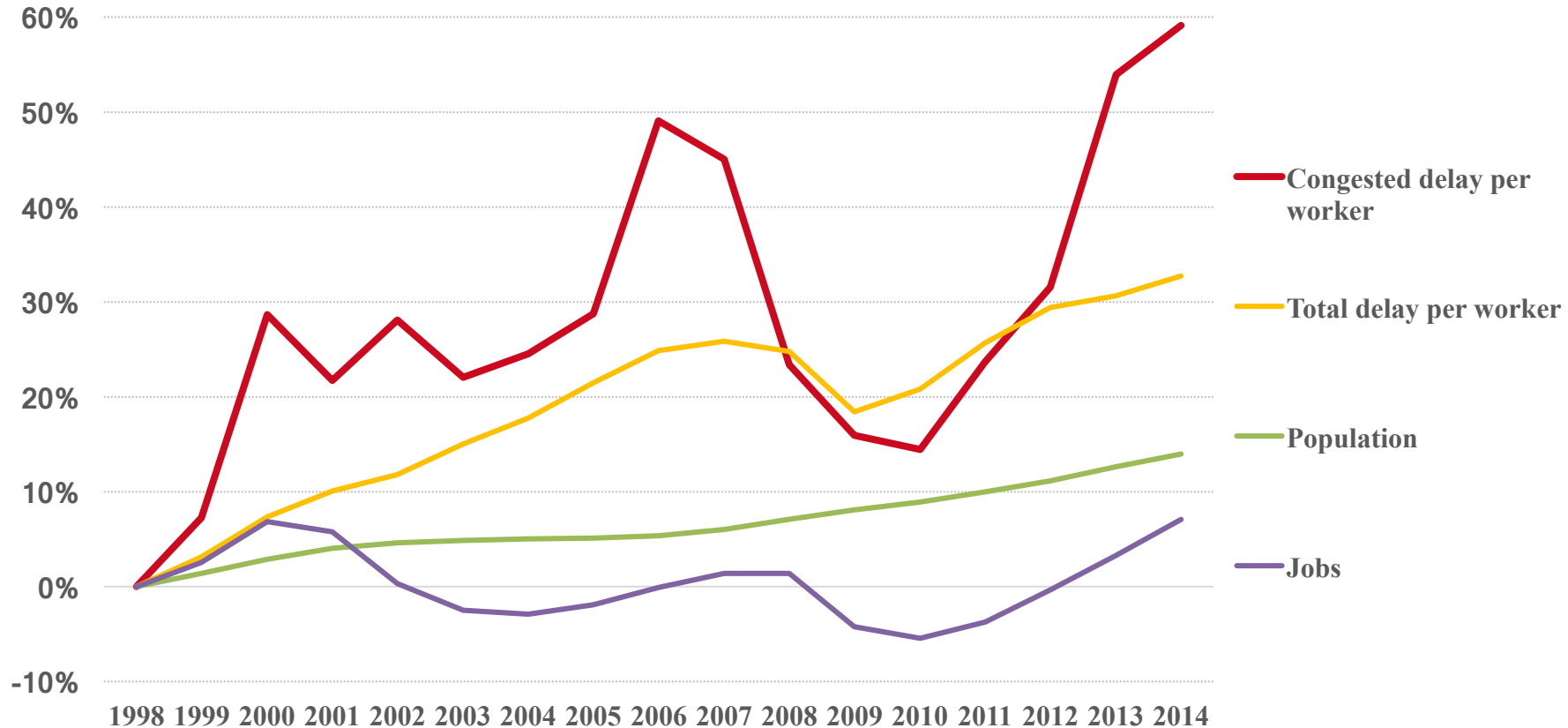


# Five high costs of free driving



# 1. Congestion in San Francisco costs drivers over \$2,000 a year in lost time.

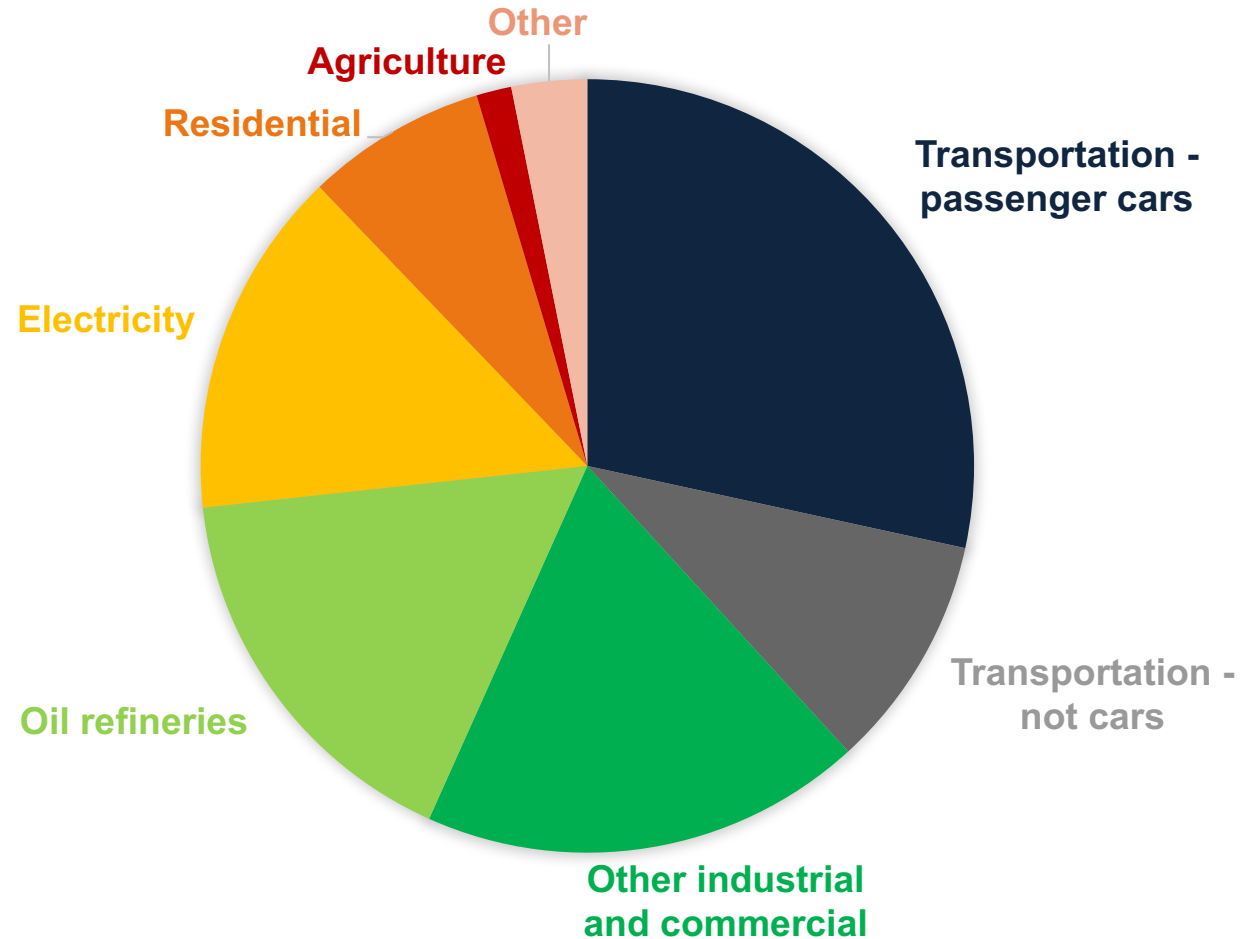
For the whole Bay Area, jobs and population have grown 14% since the late 90's, while congested delays per worker have grown by nearly 60%



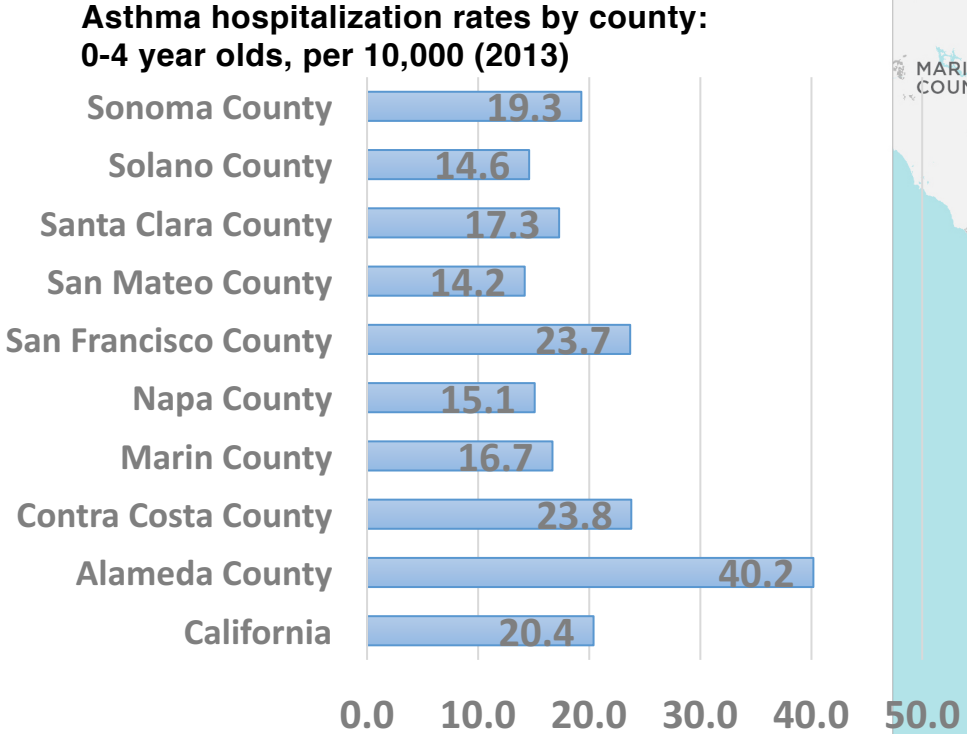
Source: InRIX for congestion estimates: <http://inrix.com/press-releases/scorecard-2017>  
VitalSigns for population and jobs: <http://www.vitalsigns.mtc.ca.gov/data-center> and for congestion metrics:  
<http://www.vitalsigns.mtc.ca.gov/time-spent-congestion>

## 2. Emissions from passenger cars is our region's single biggest contribution to climate change

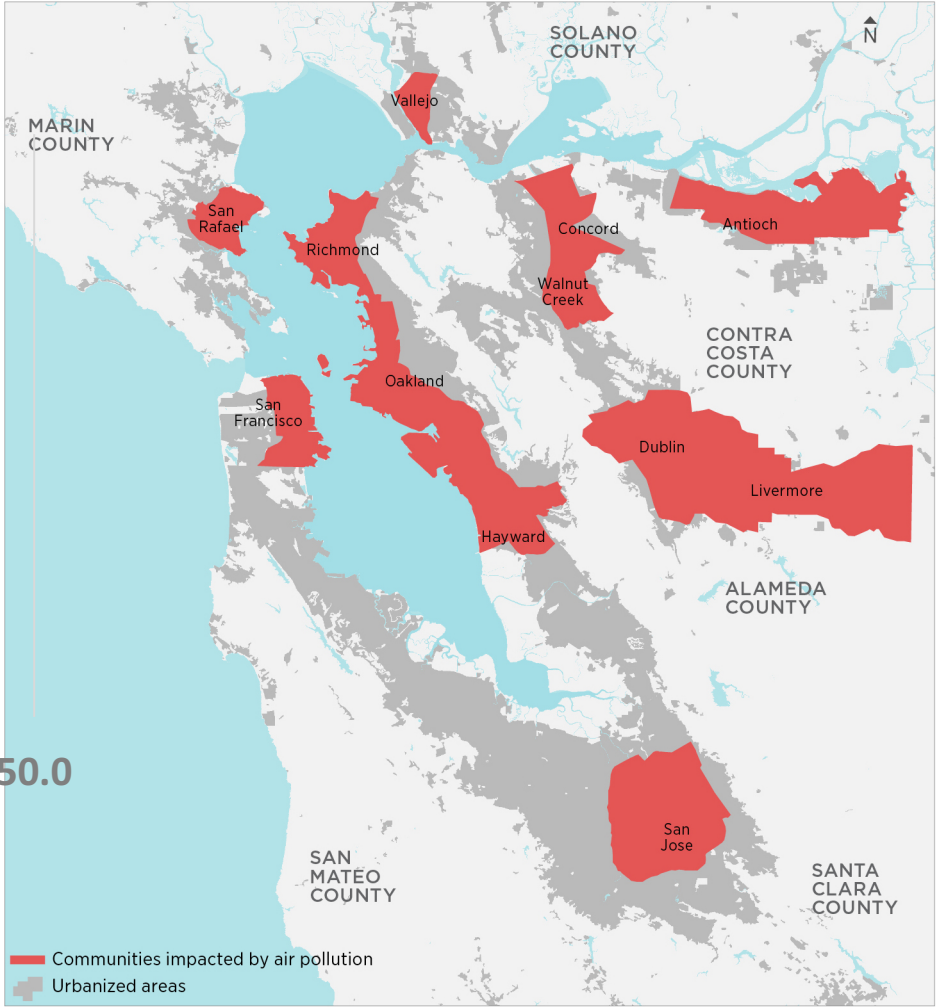
Share of MMTCO<sub>2</sub>e for the Bay Area in 2014



# 3. Cars contribute to local air quality problems and hospitalizations from asthma



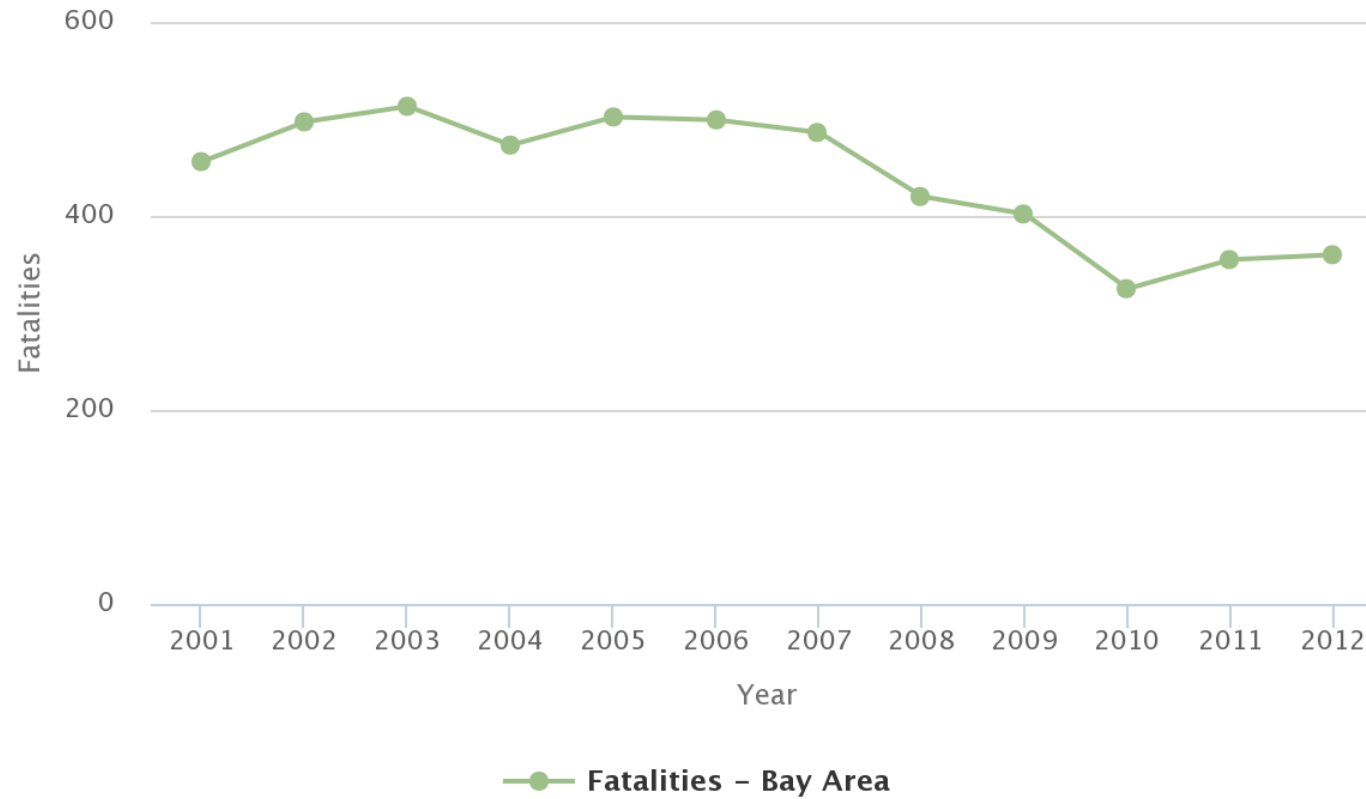
Source: Kidsdata.org





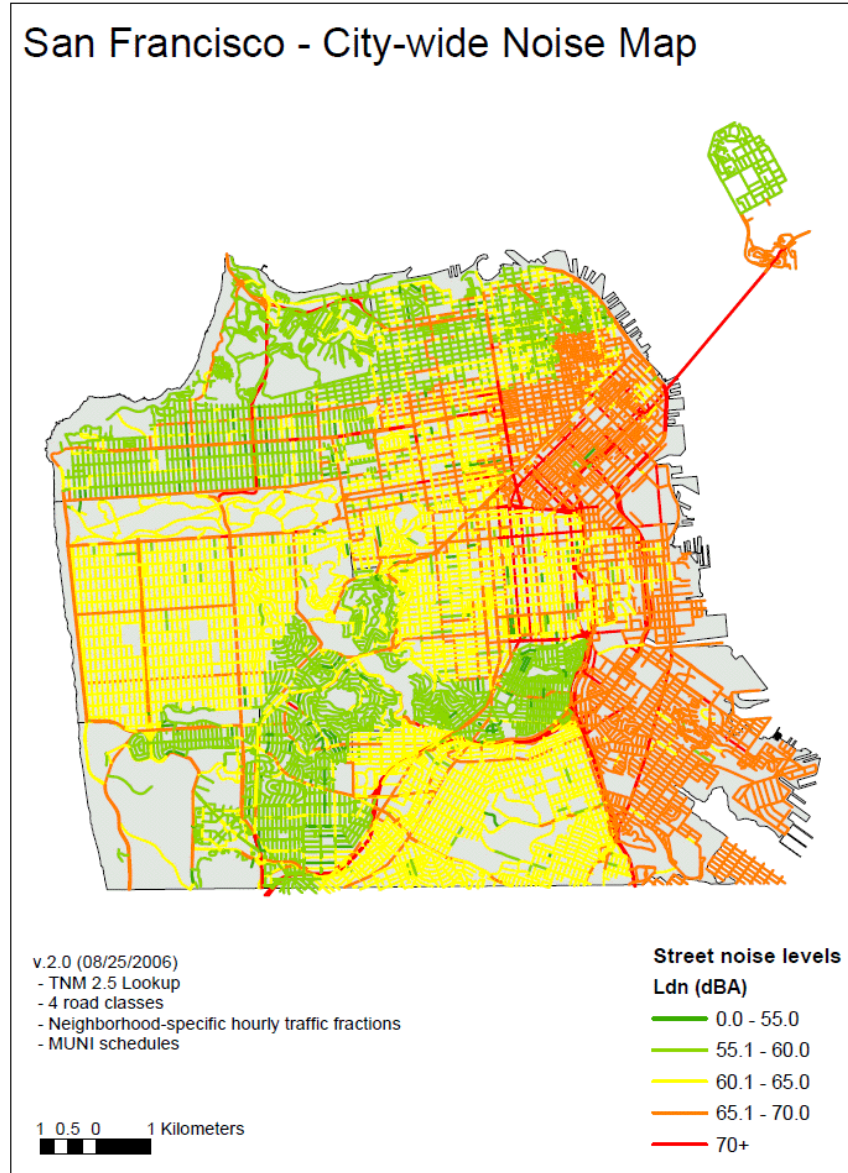
## 4. The more we drive the higher our collective risk of injury and death from collisions

Historical Trend for Fatalities from Crashes – Bay Area



Highcharts.com



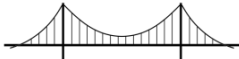


# 5. Traffic is noisy




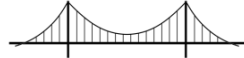







What can we learn from grocery bags?

# Which part of driving shouldn't be free to drivers? What pricing tools do we have so far?

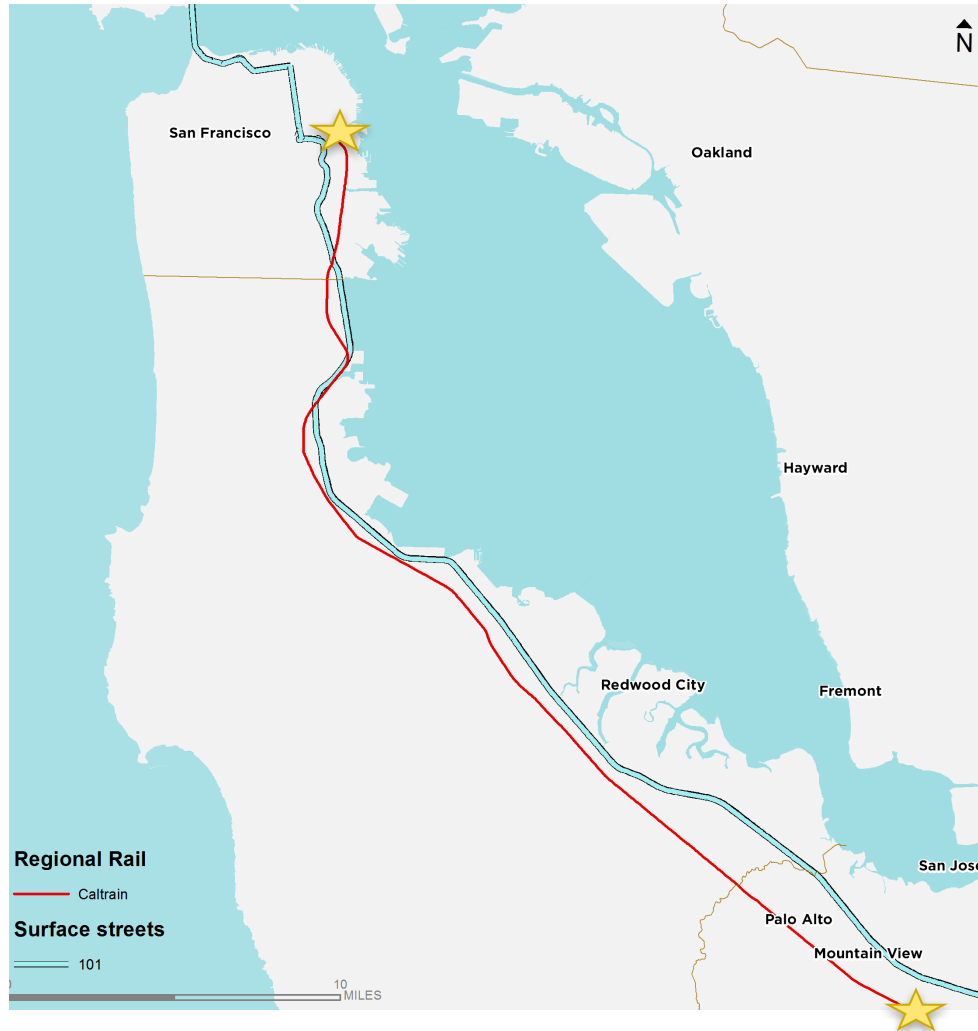
Policy	Description	The margin
<b>Gas tax</b> 	A charge on gasoline paid at the pump	Extra gallon of gas
<b>VMT fee</b> 	A fee on each mile driven	Extra mile
<b>Toll</b> 	A fee to use a piece of infrastructure	Extra trip through a particular place
<b>Cordon fee</b> 	A fee to cross into a congested area, usually a downtown business district	Extra car to enter congested area
<b>Parking fee</b> 	A fee on parking (by the hour)	Extra hour parked

# Different pricing policies are more suited to different goals

		Reduced congestion	Reduced GHG and pollution	Increased safety	Lower VMT
Gas tax 		Red	Green	Yellow	Orange
VMT fee 		Light Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Green
Toll 		Light Orange	Yellow	Orange	Orange
Decongestion fee 		Green	Orange	Yellow	Orange
Parking fee 		Light Orange	Light Orange	Light Orange	Yellow

-  Little to no marginal effect
-  Possible effect in some areas
-  Possible effect with right policy design
-  Positive indirect effect
-  Positive marginal effect

# Asking everyone to pay the full costs of their driving can change how people travel



## Driving

- 1 hour
- **\$4.60** in gas (+ free parking)

## Caltrain

- 1 hour 15 mins
- **\$5.75** (+ getting to / from train)

## Driving with pricing

- 45 mins
- **\$12.60** in gas, toll and charged parking



**Equity must be considered across income levels, geography and mode**

