M6 Toll Motorway
United Kingdom

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Outline

- Overview
  - Background information
  - Magnitudes & costs
- Purpose, social/economical benefits
- Technical issues & innovations
- Social problems & policy challenges
Overview

- Publicly funded roadway
- Birmingham North Relief Road (BNRR)
- Midland Expressway
- Connects M6 Junction with a 27 mile, 6 lane motorway.
- National Exhibition Center to Wolverhampton
Overview

- Wolverhampton at Northern end
- National Exhibition Center at South end
Magnitudes & Costs

- Proposal circulated in 1980
- 1989 - Contest held to choose builder
- 53 year contract, with cost of £900 million
- The operator sets toll rates every 6 months
- No caps on the rates charged
Construction

- 2000 – site clearance
- 2002 – construction
- 2003 – opening
## Toll Prices (Mon-Fri 6am-11pm)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Price (GBP)</th>
<th>2003 (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Motorbike</td>
<td>£ 1.00</td>
<td>$1.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car</td>
<td>£ 2.00</td>
<td>$3.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van</td>
<td>£ 5.00</td>
<td>$8.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGV</td>
<td>£ 10.00</td>
<td>$16.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Price (GBP)</th>
<th>Price (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Motorbike</td>
<td>£2.70</td>
<td>$3.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car</td>
<td>£4.70</td>
<td>$6.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car &amp; Trailer</td>
<td>£8.40</td>
<td>$11.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van</td>
<td>£9.40</td>
<td>$13.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGV</td>
<td>£9.40</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Purpose

- Designed to alleviate congestion on the M6 through Birmingham
  - Design: 72,000 vehicles per day
  - 1991: 180,000 vehicles per day
  - Today: 145,000 vehicles per day
Social & Economic Benefits

- Reduced travel time
- Reduced congestion in neighboring towns and villages
- Reliable journey times
- Safety
- State of the art service area
Innovations

- Electronic classification of vehicles at toll booth
- Microchip tag system
- Noise reducing asphalt
- State of the art service station
Technical Issues

- Repairs for uneven surface
- Needed modifications to improve drainage
Social Problems and Policy Challenges

Social Problems include:
- Environmental Impacts
- No major improvements in congestion
- Impact on how much people travel
- Creates more cost to users than benefits
Social Problems and Policy Challenges cont.

Policy Challenges include:

- Opposition by “West Midlands Friends of the Earth”
- Challenged by the “Alliance”