

## L.A. considers toll for car pool lanes

*by UPI*

LOS ANGELES -- A proposal is on the table to convert the carpool lanes of three popular Los Angeles County freeways into toll roads with higher fares during rush hour. Charging commuters for a faster way to work is part of a plan by the Metropolitan Transit Agency and Caltrans to institute "congestion pricing" in Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Times reported Friday. The concept gained steam in November when the U.S. Department of Transportation indicated it would give out more grants to fund such projects. "I think it's a horrible direction to go and I think it's immoral to sell the diamond lanes," Mid-City resident Charles Tarlow told the Times. "I also think it is outrageous that the feds take the position that they'll give us millions of dollars for lanes that exclude people who can't afford to pay." The earliest Los Angeles commuters might see toll lanes is 2009.

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