



“SmartTrip” - Testing a road pricing concept to secure smart futures

ENZ Transportation Conference 2024

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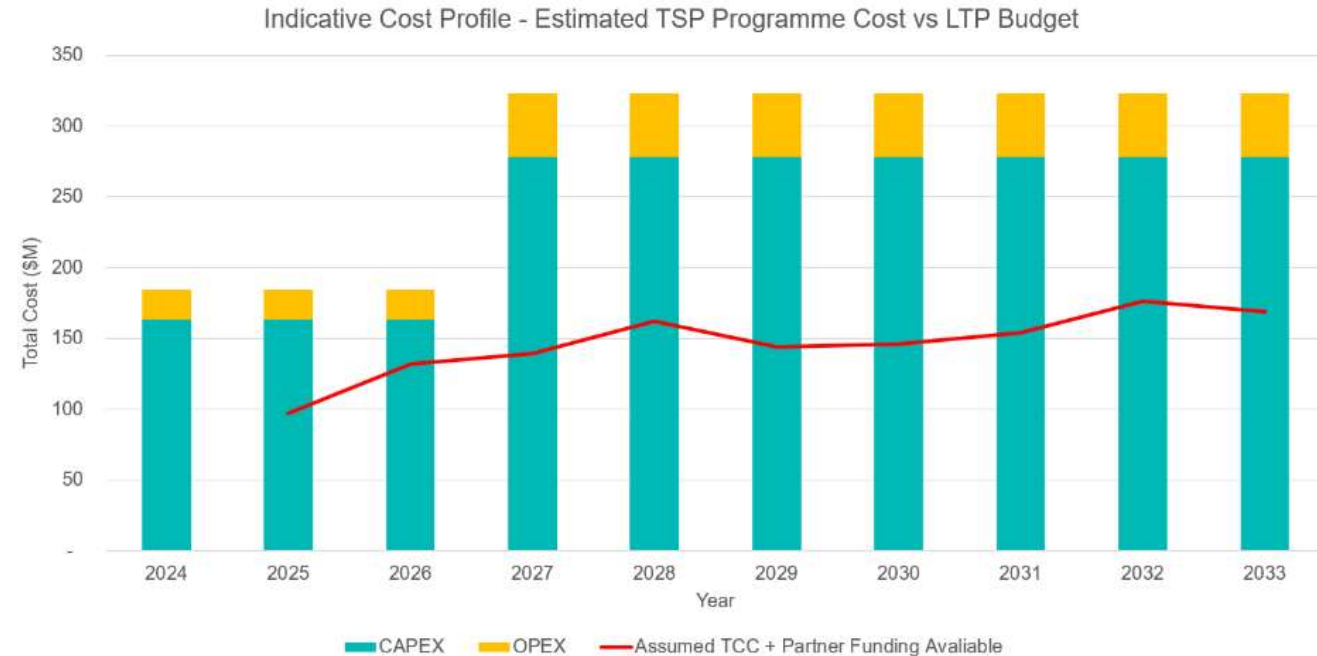
Overview – work to date timeline

1. UFTI: investigate and introduce economic instruments to influence travel choice
2. SmartTrip Investigations
3. Engagement SmartTrip
4. Coalition agreement ACT-National Party ‘time of use road charging, focus Auckland’
5. NZTA invited TCC to work on a Nationally Consistent Approach (working group)



Study Objectives

- Support **urban form outcomes** (primary outcome)
- **Optimisation** of transport system – network performance worsens 2035+
- Improve **travel time reliability** and levels of service
- **Raise revenue to invest** in local transport solutions – accelerate financing/funding SG infrastructure program e.g. TSP
- Lower carbon **emissions**
- Incentivise **travel choice**



DRP or VRP?

True DYNAMIC Road Pricing requires:

- **Price certainty** when price is notified to driver.
- **Price notification** in advance of priced route - driver make informed decision and consent.
- Choice of **alternatives** must be easy and safe.

DRP only suitable for managed lanes, i.e. premium service.

VARIABLE Road Pricing much more common.

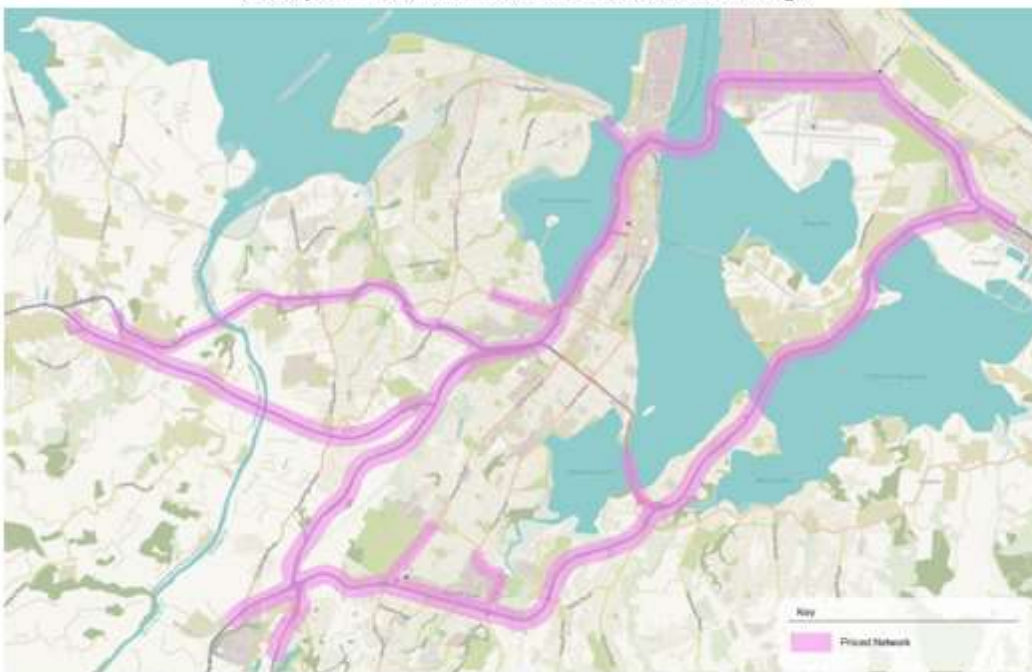
E.g. Singapore ERP, Oslo, Stockholm



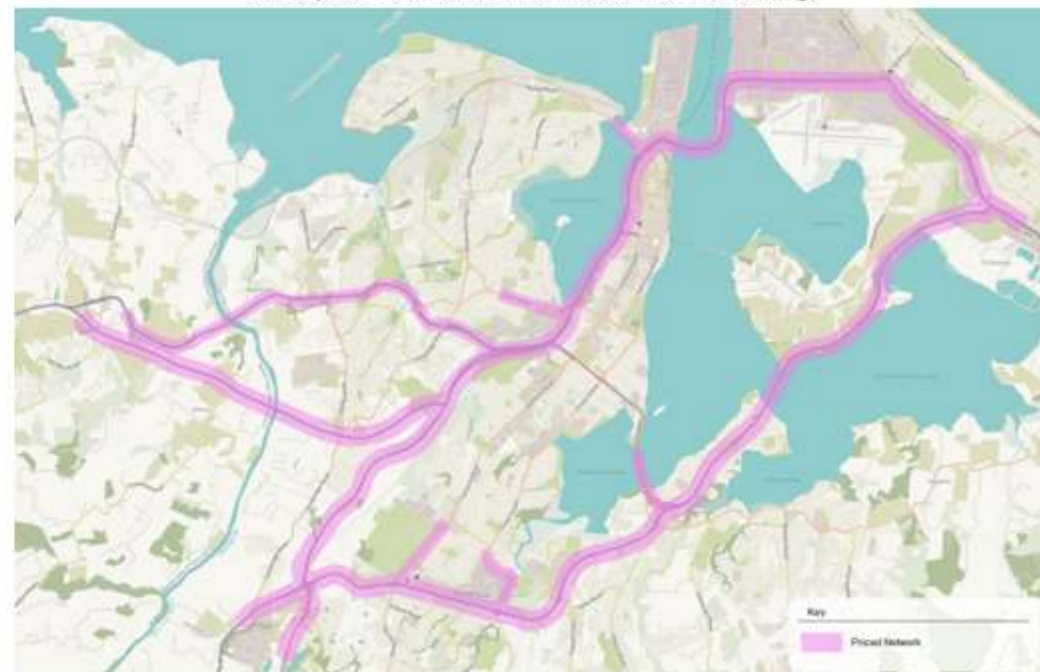
Tauranga VRP

- Stage 1
modelling

Concept 1. Priced network with an access based charge



Concept 2. Priced network with a distance based charge



Concept 3. Te Papa Peninsula Cordon






Concept 4. Te Papa Peninsula Cordon + CBD Cordon

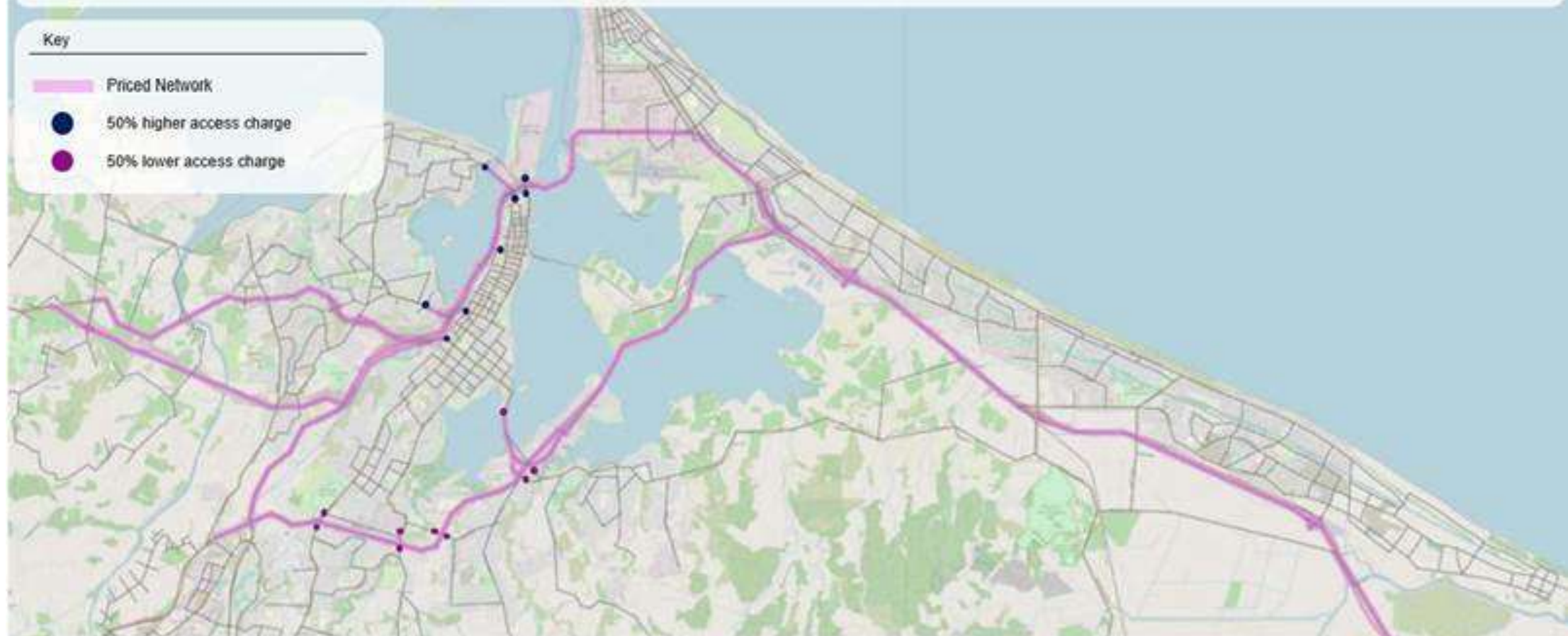


Variable Road Pricing Concept

2035 Concept 5 priced network and key network performance outcomes

Key

-  Priced Network
-  50% higher access charge
-  50% lower access charge



Peak charges



\$2.00 access plus 15 cents per KM



\$5.00 access plus 38 cents per KM



\$88m net revenue per annum

Delay

Vehicle hours/day

20% less



Mode shift

Change in PT and Cycle trips

6% more



VKT

KM/day

6% less



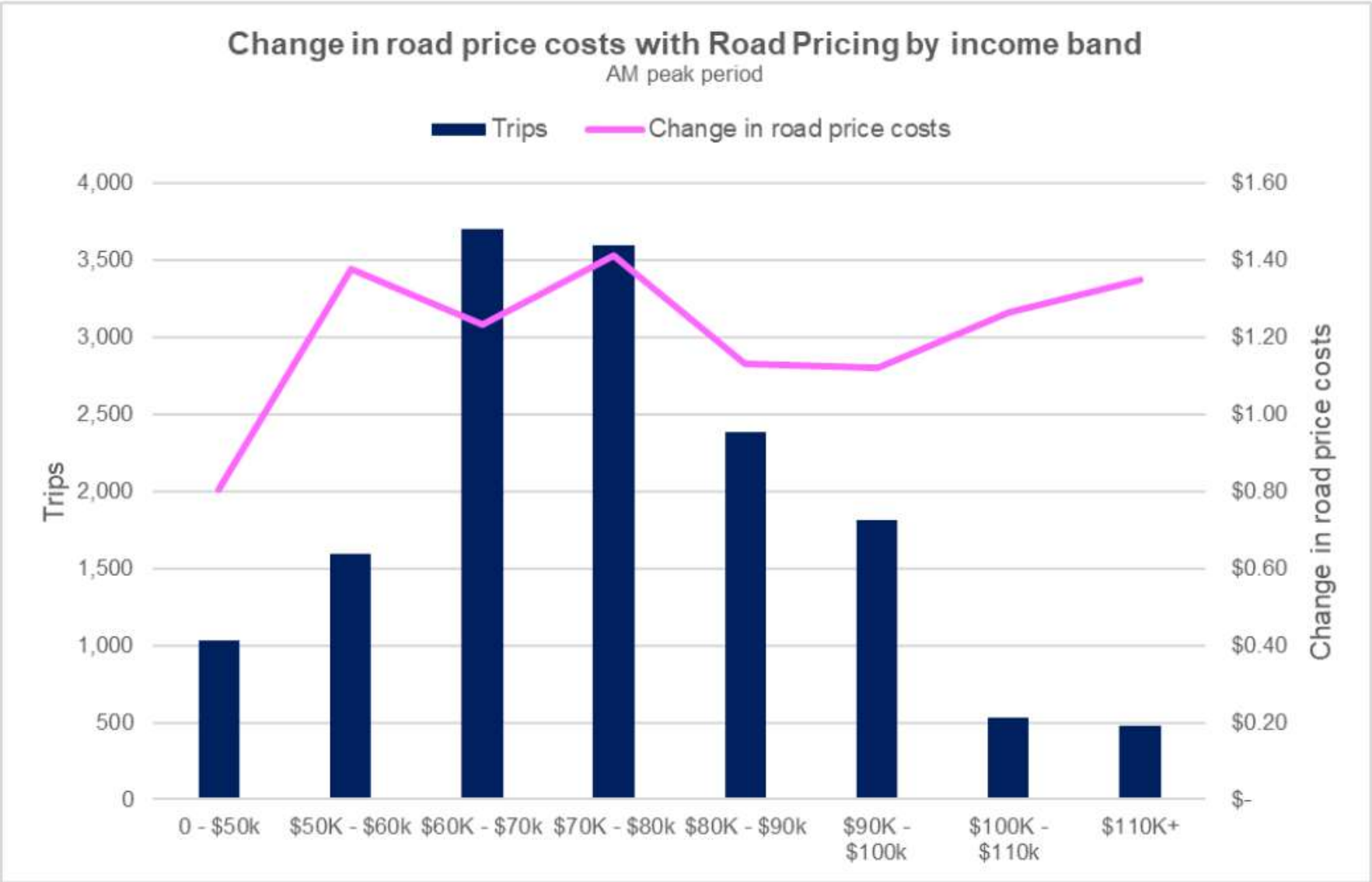
CO₂E

Kg/day

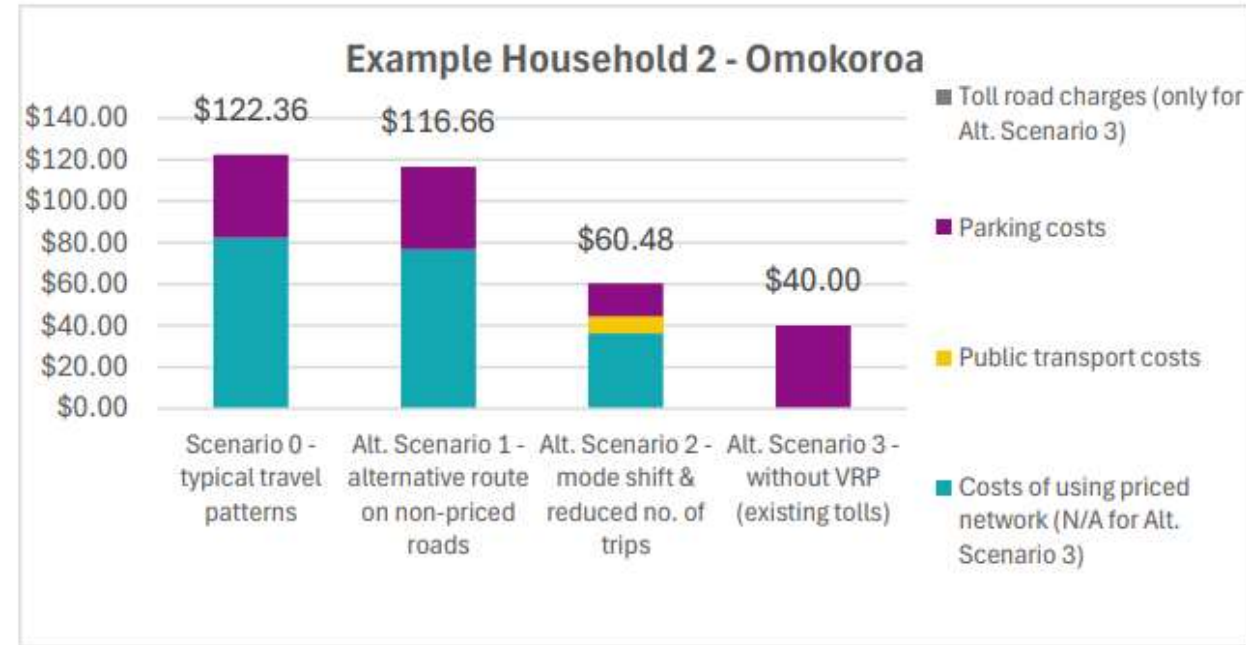
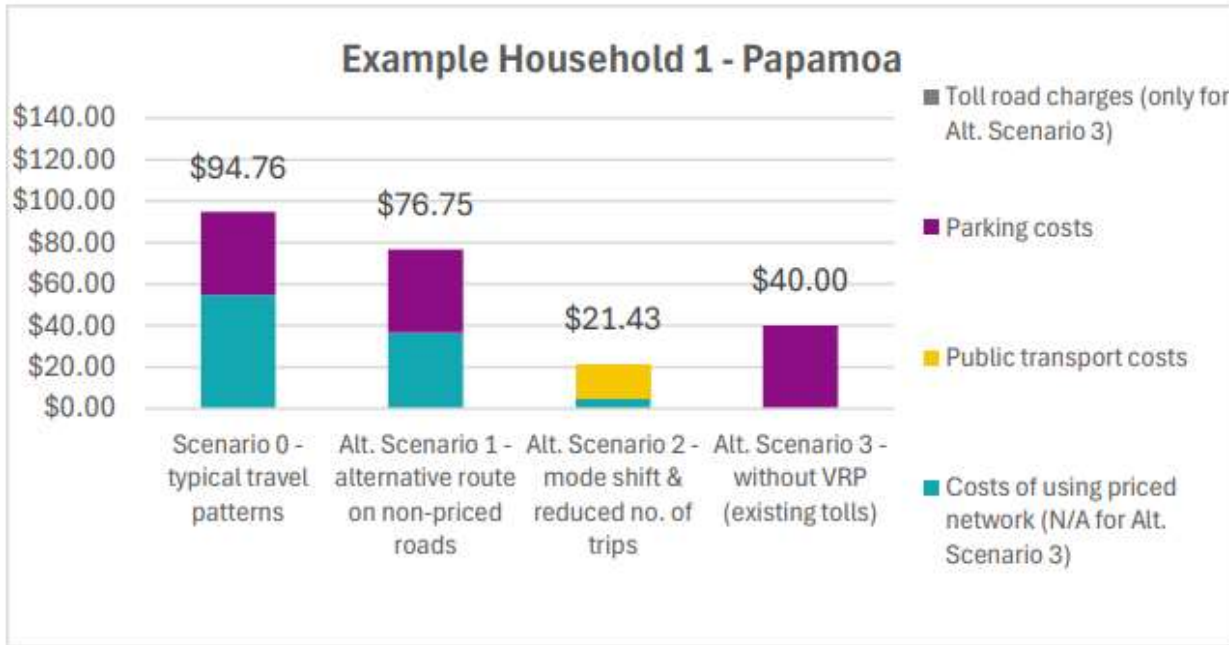
5% less



Tauranga VRP – Stage 2 Modelling



Household cost analysis



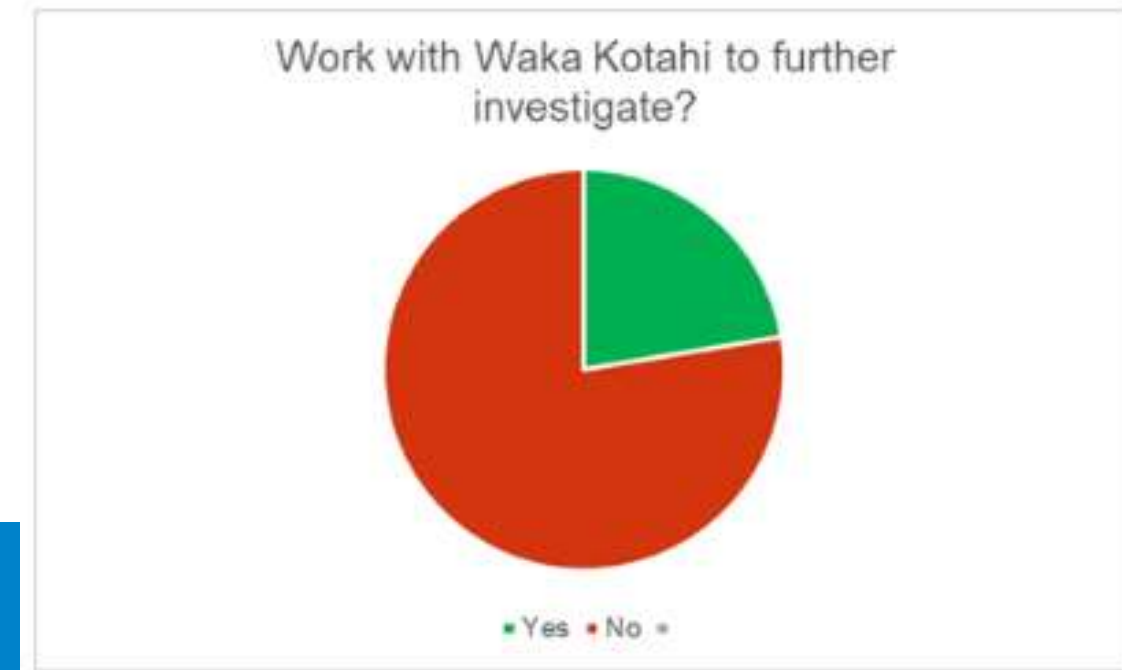
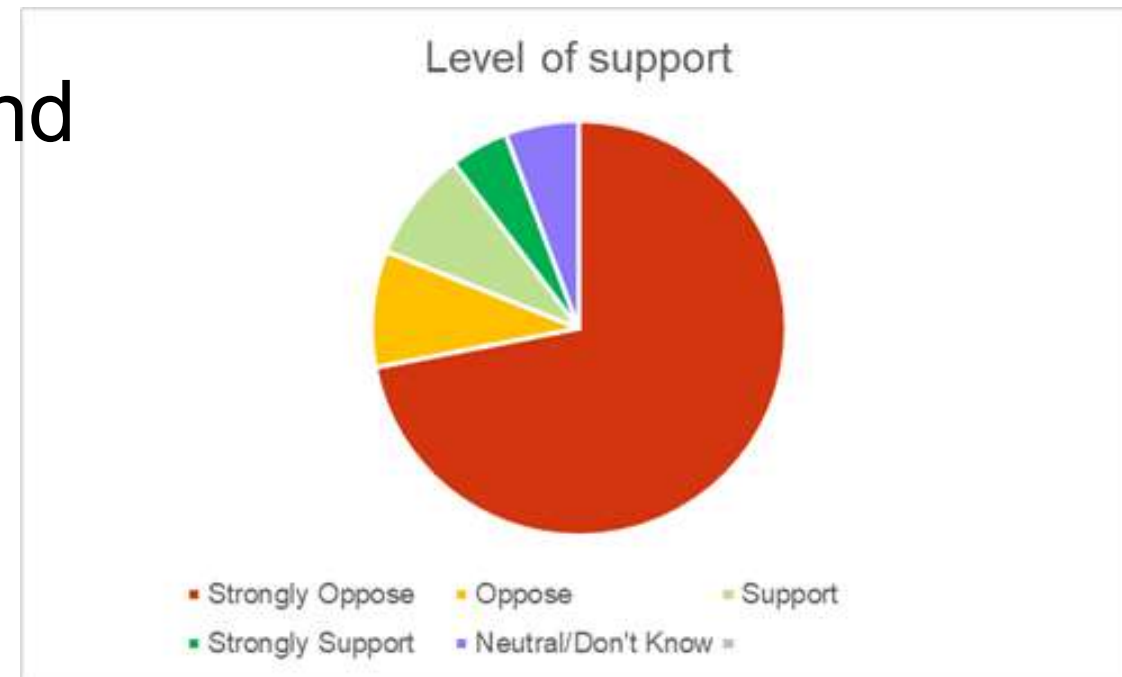
Whilst travel expenses of households will increase with implementation of VRP, impact will be different depending on household circumstances. There are options & alternatives to lessen costs.

In general, travel time is reduced with the VRP concept implemented, up to 17% reduction.

LTP consultation: “SmartTrip” brand

Three engagement questions were asked:

- (a) *‘What is your level of support for using SmartTrip variable road pricing to accelerate Tauranga’s investment in a better road network and transport services thereby reducing congestion and carbon emissions?’*
- (b) *‘Should we work with Waka Kotahi and Government to further investigate SmartTrip through a business case investigation? (This would confirm the benefits variable road pricing could provide and identify solutions which would address any potential negative impacts).’*
- (c) *‘Any comments?’*



Utunga haere
SmartTrip



SmartTrip consultation feedback

Most common topics for not supporting SmartTrip:

- **Cost of living** / not able or willing to pay more
- Quality of **other modes** needing improvement
- **Equity** (affecting low incomes or certain suburbs)
- Can't change travel time (teachers / doctors / retail / medical appts)
- Nationally vs. Local
- Competition with other regions
- Unwelcoming for visitors/tourists

Anger at Tauranga's congestion charge plan



Traffic congestion is nothing new in Tauranga. File photo/SunLive.

"Money grabbing," "we might as well hand over our whole pay cheque",
"disgusting".

What's next for SmartTrip?

Commissioners resolved (March 2024) to:

- NOT progress a business case
 - Rationale: engagement results, govt direction, AT's aspirations
- Agreed to work with NZTA and other interested councils on a nationally consistent approach for road pricing
- Up to \$1.5m for investigations (500k pa)
 - Local studies and/or contributing to national studies - tbd



Questions



**CONGESTION PRICING
QUESTIONS AND STORY IDEAS**