

Graduate Seminar



Babu K Veeregowda, PhD, PE, PTOE

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Engineering and Architecture, P.C.**

September 30, 2024 (4:00 pm - 5:30 pm), Kupfrian Hall - Room 205

[Zoom Link: Click Here](#) Meeting ID: 994 3917 6432 Passcode: 058807

Congestion Pricing and the Balanced Transportation Analyzer – Reducing Congestion, Raising Revenue, and Improving Quality of Life

Abstract

New York City's congestion pricing initiative represents a pioneering approach to urban mobility, aiming to alleviate traffic congestion and enhance air quality through a variable toll system for vehicles entering Manhattan's busiest areas. This policy is designed not only to reduce traffic volumes but also to promote sustainable transportation practices by incentivizing public transit use over personal vehicles. The initiative is expected to generate approximately \$1 billion annually for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), which will be reinvested in public transportation infrastructure to improve service quality and accessibility for all residents. Additionally, the reduction of vehicle emissions aligns with the city's broader climate goals, contributing to improved public health outcomes. Despite its potential benefits, the implementation of congestion pricing raises important questions regarding equity and accessibility. Stakeholders, including low-income residents and local businesses, may face challenges that necessitate targeted solutions, such as subsidies or improved transit options. This paper aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the anticipated impacts of congestion pricing on traffic dynamics, environmental sustainability, and economic equity, while also addressing stakeholder concerns and exploring best practices from other cities that have adopted similar measures. By fostering a balanced discussion, this study seeks to illuminate the pathway toward a more efficient and equitable urban transportation landscape in New York City.

About the Speaker

Dr. Babu K Veeregowda is an eminent leader and recognized authority in transportation infrastructure, celebrated for his pioneering work and visionary design solutions. As Vice President and Chief Transportation and Traffic Engineer at HNTB's Northeast Division, he oversees a wide array of complex projects that shape the transportation landscape across the East Coast. HNTB, a premier engineering and architecture firm with a reputation for delivering transformative infrastructure solutions, is the second-largest transportation engineering firm in the U.S., boasting over 5,500 engineers and 50 offices nationwide. Working with such a distinguished firm, Dr. Veeregowda benefits from an environment of innovation and excellence that aligns with his own high standards and commitment to advancing the field. With more than three decades of experience, Dr. Veeregowda's expertise in engineering design is marked by his ability to deliver innovative, cost-effective, and sustainable solutions.



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