

Congestion Tax

Congestion tax is intended to improve accessibility on our roads, improve our environment and part-finance the West Swedish Agreement (see other action). Around 38 control points are placed at the entrances and exits to the congestion zone in Gothenburg since 2013. The decrease in road traffic since the congestion tax was introduced has resulted a major reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

In a comparison between the year before the congestion tax was introduced (2012) there has been a decrease in car travels as well as an increase in public transport and bike travel. This has led to an overall decrease in negative environmental effects in the Gothenburg region.

The effects are due to the West Swedish agreement and the investments made in infrastructure for public transport, bikes and campaigns to encourage bike riding and transportation by public transport as well as the introduction and implementation of congestion taxes.

Changes in travel by public transport during the first half of 2015 compared to 2013:

- Västra Götaland Region +3 %
- Gothenburg Region +3 %
- Express busses within the Gothenburg Region +5 %
- Commuter trains +2 %
- Busses in Gothenburg +13 %
- Trams +1 %

Changes in car travels compared to 2012 before the congestion tax was introduced:

- Trafik flow through the areas where the stations for congestion taxes are placed - 6-7 %

Increase in bike travels (compared to previous year):

- + 22 percent (in 2013) and + 4 percent (in 2014) in central Gothenburg

In 2014 Gothenburg had a consultative referendum on congestion tax. A majority voted no. Studies made after the referendum showed that there were no alternative measure that alone can provide the same benefits to the environment, congestion and economy. The next step was a political decision to continue with the congestion tax. A number of adjustments have been made to increase the acceptance of tax, for example introduction of tax for foreign registered vehicles.

More information:

The West Swedish Agreement (in Swedish):

<http://www.trafikverket.se/nara-dig/vastra-gotaland/vastsvenska-paketet>