

Road Funds: do we have strong reasons to apply them?

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Abstrak

Road Funds, financed from user charges; have been practiced in many countries in securing more reliable funding for road. The idea of an off budget source of funding is appealing. But they are most effective where they form part of a broader strategy to manage roads in a more business-like way on a fee-for-service basis: the link between user charges - tariffs for road use - and road expenditures, reinforced by user participation in their oversight creates a sense of ownership and puts pressure on road agencies for greater transparency, accountability, and efficiency. This is in tune with Indonesia's moves towards better governance and democratic accountability under decentralization. This paper discusses the paradigm shifts that are now taking place and considers them as the rationales behind the attempt to establish a road fund in Indonesia.