

TDP Taxi Plating

Problem: Current taxi plating practices in most cities provide for a restricted number of licensed taxis. In some cases, taxi plates are permanently issued so that they may be re-sold and carry a high value (e.g., \$475,000 [USD] in Melbourne, Australia). In other cases, these plates are issued by the government for limited periods and cannot be resold by an owner/operator. This creates a constant supply of taxis, meaning there are too many when no one's around and there are not enough when they're needed. The high cost of a taxi plate often forces taxi owners to operate around the clock in order to maximize return on investment. This creates long shifts with few fares, resulting in unnecessary vehicle travel miles and emissions and a number of very low-paying jobs.

Solution: Skymeter offers a Time, Distance and Place (TDP) subscription plating service that allows taxis to be licensed by the mile. Licenses could be



charged at different rates depending on geographic zone, time of day and day of the week. Skymeter forwards a location-anonymous mileage data feed to the

licensing municipality corresponding to each such licensee. A tamper-record is included as part of our tamper-resistant capability. Taxi trip data may be used for other related purposes such as safety monitoring and congestion probes.

Benefits: Cab drivers are encouraged to drive only when there are people who need taxis. A variable supply of taxis means customers are better served. More people using taxis means fewer people driving their own cars, hence a reduced burden on limited parking spaces.

Taxis licensed on a distance basis rather than an annual basis, need not operate 24 hours per day, providing more humane working conditions for drivers, and provide for single-operator vehicles (more pride, better maintenance) as opposed to shared vehicles which are often in a state of disrepair.