The Alliance of British Drivers

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Press Release – ABD London Region

For immediate release

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City and TfL plan 20-mph limits on main London roads

Without consulting the road users, Transport for London (TfL) and the City of London Corporation plan to impose 20-mph speed limits on TfL controlled roads in the City. That includes on Upper/Lower Thames Street (the A3211), one of the key arterial routes from East to West through London.

The proposals recently approved by Corporation bodies for a 20-mph speed limit across the whole of the City of London will extend to TfL controlled roads such as the A3211 mentioned above (and might also cover the whole of the Embankment), the A10 (Norton Folgate, Bishopsgate, Gracechurch St, Eastcheap, King William St), the A201 (Farringdon Street, Ludgate Circus, New Bridge Street, Blackfriars Bridge) and the A1210 (Minories, Goodman's Yard, Mansell Street).

In an email obtained by the ABD, from Daniel Johnson at TfL to City officials, he says that "in principle TfL is supportive of a 20-mph speed limit" on those roads.

The ABD objects most strongly to the imposition of such a limit on these main arterial routes and has already made representations to the City of London Corporation on this matter. Unfortunately Corporation bodies voted to approve these proposals based on a deeply flawed report which contained simple factual errors before we were even aware they were considering the matter.

This is the first time that it has become plain that TfL intends to support 20-mph speed limits on London's arterial routes which is a direct attack on the use of motorized transport.

More Information

The ABD opposes wide area 20-mph speed limits, particularly on roads that are main distributor routes, because there is little evidence that they cut accidents. Indeed the money wasted on such schemes would be more effectively spent on other road safety measures. More information on the spurious claims about the benefits of 20-mph speed limits are given in articles on this web page: www.freedomfordrivers.org/Road_Safety.htm

In the view of the ABD proposals for 20-mph speed limits are "gesture politics" promoted by people who understand little about road safety. It is the thin end of the wedge for drivers in London when they are forced to travel at unrealistic speeds and risk fines for going as fast as many cyclists.

The report to Corporation of London bodies on the proposals contained simple errors such as misrepresentation of the use of STATS19 forms (police accident reporting forms), and claims that there were no reported accidents on Upper Thames Street when a temporary 20 mph speed limit was imposed which is simply untrue.

Contact

For more information on this issue, contact Roger Lawson on 020-8467-2686, email: roger.lawson@abd.org.uk

About The Alliance of British Drivers (ABD)

The Alliance of British Drivers was formed from a merger between the Association of British Drivers and the Drivers Alliance. The ABD is the leading independent organisation which represents the interests of private motorists in the United Kingdom. We campaign to protect the rights of individual road users and believe that road transport is a beneficial and essential element in the UK transport infrastructure. We oppose excessive taxation of motorists and are against tolls and road usage charging. We also campaign for more enlightened road safety policies. The Alliance is a "not for profit" voluntary organisation which is financially supported primarily by its individual members. More information on the ABD is available from our web sites at www.freedomfordrivers.org and www.abd.org.uk