

The Mayor Of London's Transport Strategy – Why It Should Be Opposed

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Agenda

- Introduction.
- Background on the ABD.
- The Mayor's Transport Strategy (MTS) – What It's About and Why.
- How the MTS will be Implemented.
- Questions.
- The Public Consultation on the MTS and Responses to it.
- The ULEZ and its implications (Guest Speaker Howard Cox from FairFuelUK)
- How to Defeat the MTS
- Open Forum
- How you can help, and how the ABD can help you.



Alliance of British Drivers (ABD)

Background Information on the ABD:

- A national organisation founded in 1992.
- An incorporated member association funded by its members (www.abd.org.uk)
- We campaign for:
 - More investment in roads
 - Lower road taxes
 - No road pricing or tolls
 - Reduced traffic congestion
 - Evidence-based road safety
 - Improved parking provision
- Active London campaigns
- www.freedomfordrivers.org



ABD Information Sources

- National newsletter for Subscribing Members (OTR)
- London Newsletter (free).
- National Facebook Account



- National ABD Twitter account
- London ABD Twitter account: @Drivers_London
- ABD London Blog: <https://abdondon.wordpress.com/>

To counter the misinformation spread by the Mayor, other politicians and TfL



The Mayor's Transport Strategy

What's it about?

Quote: "London's streets should be for active travel and social interaction....", i.e. not for moving people and goods.

Aims: To reduce "car dependency" and "by 2041, 80 per cent of Londoners' trips will be made on foot, by cycle or using public transport".



Sadiq Khan



What London Will Look Like?



The Mayor's Problems

- A Growing Population + No investment in the road network. Result: Traffic Congestion.
- Public Transport Network Capacity Overloaded and High Air pollution (public concerns and breach of legal limits on NO_x).
- His budget (underwater by £1 billion per annum)



The Mayor's Solutions-1

It's mainly about money and how to extract more from Londoners!

So charges on vehicle users (new ways to pay for roads, London VED, Workplace Parking Levy).

And charges for air pollution (ULEZ).



The Mayor's Solutions-2

- More bus priority measures (bus lanes).
- More money on cycling and cycle superhighways.
- More parking restrictions to discourage car use.
- Limits on PHVs.



The Mayor's Solutions-3

- A direct attack on private vehicles (even zero emission ones and motorcycles) and your freedom to choose how you travel.
- Even the elderly and disabled will need to cycle or walk.



How It Will Be Implemented

- Via planning legislation (maximum parking provision zero for many areas in the London Plan).
- Via local boroughs and bribes to them.
- By LIP policy direction (the Mayor can act as a dictator).



What We Have Done To Oppose it

- Generated campaign supporters, and got them to submit objections.
- Responded to public consultations.
- Issued press releases and obtained media coverage.



What He Could Have Done?

Alternative strategies.

What could the Mayor have done instead to tackle congestion and air pollution issues?



Questions?

See <http://www.freedomfordrivers.org/against-mts.htm>
for more information.



Some Comments Received

"I object most strongly to all the proposals to tax or discourage car use in the Mayor's Transport Strategy, and in particular the idea of extending the Congestion Charge. This was not spelled out in his manifesto and if it had been he would not have got my vote"Z.R.

"He [Sadiq Khan] said he would be a Mayor for all Londoners but he is turning out to be a Mayor for a minority of flat earthers who are prejudiced against motorists. He spouts the nonsense that streets are for people not cars."E.T.

"We have to visit London to attend hospital visits with one of our children, who requires ongoing specialist medical care. Imposition of this new policy would cause hardship and make our visits much more difficult and expensive." M.L.

"I am a licensed taxi driver of 40 years standing and I wish to object to the Mayor's Transport Strategy. The improvements proposed and also implemented over the last few years are simply not working! Congestion and pollution in London has been compounded by road closures, cycle lanes and narrowing of already limited road space and it is now time to say enough. TfL should be managing this problem, not stifling it with ridiculous schemes that really benefit no one..."...B.B.

See <http://www.freedomfordrivers.org/mts-comments.htm> for more.



The Public Consultation on the MTS

- Many comments objecting to road user charging and “densification” of London suburbs.
- But numbers showing support distorted by active lobbying by cycling and other anti-car groups.



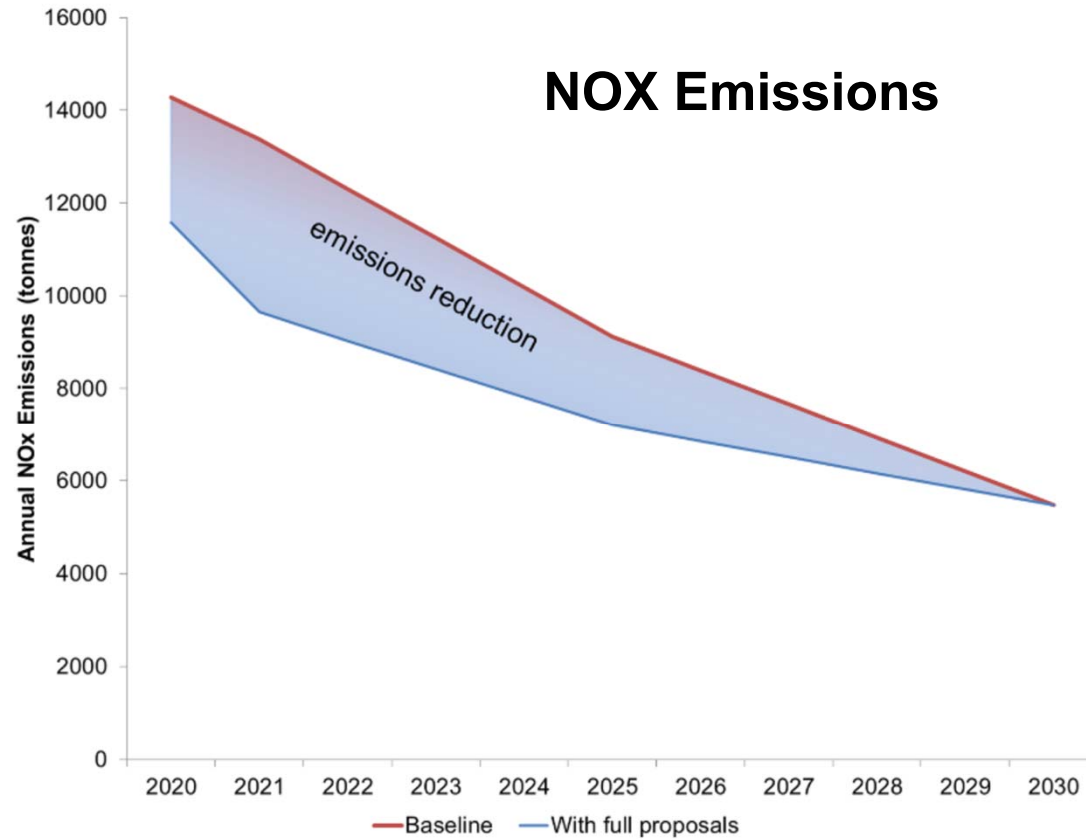
The ULEZ

- By 2021, within the North/South Circular, cars more than 4 years old will be charged £12.50 per day, or you will need to buy a new car.
- in summary for a total cost of £516 million to London vehicle users, the health benefit is valued at £7.1 million over 5 years.

See: <http://www.freedomfordrivers.org/environment.htm>



The ULEZ Benefit



Is it worth it? Is there a public health crisis?



- Howard Cox from FairFuelUK



How to Defeat the MTS

- Defeat local borough proposals.
- Ensure Sadiq Khan does not get re-elected.
- Make it a political issue by generating wider opposition and educating the public.
- Other suggestions?



Open Forum

- How we can widen and strengthen the campaign against the MTS.



How You Can Help

- Provide funds to fight the campaign (and join the ABD).
- Help with local borough activism, and social media/press campaigns.
- Recruit more supporters.
- Join a Committee to progress the campaign.
- The ABD can provide advice, support and some funding.



In Conclusion

Don't just moan. You need to take action!

Churchillian attitude required: “We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender.....”



Questions

