



The Association of British Drivers

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Press Release – ABD London Region

For immediate release
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London Congestion Charge - Western Extension Abolished

London Mayor Boris Johnson announced today that the "Western Extension" to the London congestion charge zone, covering Kensington and Chelsea, will be abolished by 2010.

"We are delighted that Boris Johnson has scrapped an unpopular scheme that the Association of British Drivers (ABD) has campaigned consistently against," said ABD London spokesman, Roger Lawson. "This is a great day for London and a good day for Britain."

Meanwhile, the people of Greater Manchester are currently voting on plans to introduce the largest road charging zone in the world - a vote forced by determined opposition to politicians (local and national) who are wedded to the flawed concept of road pricing.

"Londoners voted overwhelmingly to scrap one congestion charge, while Manchester still perseveres with introducing another," said the ABD's Nigel Humphries. "Boris has listened to the people who elected him - while the politicians of Manchester, under strong influence from Whitehall, continue to turn a deaf ear to reason."

We Look Forward to Total Abolition of the Congestion Charge

Boris Johnson accepts the congestion charge extension in London has not worked to cut congestion, but has harmed local businesses. The writing is on the wall - a congestion charge does not work even in the very centre of a capital city that is already well served by public transport. It is undesirable and uneconomic. And particularly when it is extended to areas where people live and where normal businesses are located, it is ruinous. The ABD would like to see the London Congestion Charge scheme abolished altogether and the resources put into this operation diverted into productive activities and businesses. Let us hope that abolition of the Western Extension is a first step towards that goal.

For further information, please contact:

Roger Lawson
ABD London Co-Ordinator

For more information on the Western Extension Congestion Charge and our campaign to remove it, go to this page of the ABD London web site:

www.freedomfordrivers.org/WesternCon.htm

Some 28,000 people and organisations responded to the Mayor's consultation on the Western Extension of the Congestion Charge. Sixty-nine per cent voted to scrap it, with only nineteen per cent supporting retention, and twelve per cent supporting changes to the scheme. Note that 86% of businesses wanted it scrapped.

The scheme is unlikely to be scrapped before Spring 2010 as a more formal consultation procedure now has to be gone through before a final decision is taken by the Mayor.

About The Association of British Drivers (ABD)

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 Association 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 site at www.freedomfordrivers.org