



The Association of British Drivers

London Region: PO Box 62, Chislehurst, Kent, BR7 5YB; Tel: 020-8467-2686;
Web: www.abd.org.uk and www.freedomfordrivers.org

Press Release – ABD London Region

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DRIVERS' GROUP SLAMS LONDON'S BIASED TRANSPORT CONSULTATION

The Association of British Drivers (ABD) is concerned to note that many people are unaware of an important consultation. A long document, the Mayor's Transport Strategy, was released in October [1]. Its proposals are far-reaching and, given its significance, ABD feels that the consultation has been severely under-publicised.

ABD London Media Spokesman Brian Mooney remarked:

"One reason for this might be that the MTS is seeking approval for the extension of the discredited Congestion Charge to other areas, and even drops a hint about it becoming London-wide. [2]

The consultation leaflet has been anything but impartial, leading readers towards agreeing with a loaded statement supporting 'fair road pricing'." [3]

Brian added:

"The leaflet makes no attempt at any objective discussion on what might or might not be fair. Nor does it remind the reader that drivers already pay five times over for their emissions and the paltry investment in roads. There is nothing fair about adding to this burden and pricing people off the road. [4]

Instead of proposing more stealth taxes (such as on parking), the Mayor should be giving more back to those who pay for London's roads. For instance, giving higher priority to fixing London's crumbling road surfaces, which threaten the safety of car users, cyclists and pedestrians alike".

The ABD urges people who live or work in London to have their say before the consultation ends on 12 January. [5]

NOTES FOR EDITORS

[1] www.london.gov.uk/shaping-london (draft Mayor's Transport strategy, 354 pages long.)

[2] A diagram on p.252 hints at the prospect of Greater London-wide road pricing. Ironically, this contradicts the immediate proposal to remove the Western Extension Zone, which met a public backlash in a preliminary consultation in 2008.

[3] Leaflet 'Help shape London's future' (Mayor's Office/Transport for London)

[4] TRANSCOM House of Commons transport committee report on road user charges, 2009, HC103 – see www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmtran/103/103.pdf

[5] Responses to the MTS proposals can be emailed to mts@london.gov.uk or sent by post to PO Box 65064, London SE1P 5GE

[6] Other controversial MTS proposals include:

- * 'Demand management' measures such as environmentally-inflated parking charges.
- * 'Where possible', car access is to be restricted in residential areas to give unprecedented priority to cyclists.
- * Expensive measures to increase cycling such as 'cycle superhighways' that remove scarce road space.
- * Unspecified 'special charges' might also be imposed on drivers to provide new or upgraded facilities (e.g. river crossings).

To contact Brian Mooney, please ring 07976-414913, 020-7385 9757 or email him on fairdeal@abd.org.uk

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 sites at www.freedomfordrivers.org and www.abd.org.uk