

London's traffic revolution.

Good morning ! As any Londoner knows, it is quicker to walk than drive in Central London these days. Indeed, the average car speed is less than five kilometres per hour ! However, starting this month, a new system is being introduced to make drivers pay to enter the city centre... With me today in the studio, Steve Walter, spokesman for Transport 2000, an organisation that campaigns for better public transport. You are in favour of the project, I'm sure !

Indeed, we are !

How will it work ?

Between the hours of 7am and 6.30pm, Mondays to Fridays, anyone driving into Central London will have their number plate photographed by one of 230 special cameras. Drivers will then receive a bill for their journey. The money will go to improving public transport.

Will any vehicles be exempt ?

Taxis, buses, motorcycles and handicapped drivers will be exempt. So will vehicles using alternative fuels, like electric cars. People living inside the zone will have a 90% discount.

Many people are worried the system won't work, there will be mistakes.

There may be problems at first. Some people will feel it is unfair, but most of the time, they will have an alternative, public transport.

Wouldn't it have been better to improve public transport first ?

Yes , but the idea is to raise money for public transport. Motorists will also benefit because there will be fewer cars on the road. As you said at the beginning, cars now go no faster than 5 kms per hour on average. The target is a reduction in traffic of 10% to 15%.

Well, let's wait and see ! thank you Steve for joining us this morning.