

To Temporary Congestion Charge Team
Oxfordshire County Council
County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND

Dear Temporary Congestion Charge Team (ccharge@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Oxford temporary congestion charge for cars

CycloX strongly supports the proposal for a temporary congestion charge. Traffic congestion blights our beautiful city and we see that the proposed temporary congestion charge is the best way to reduce the amount of motor traffic (specifically cars) in the city in the short term, until traffic filters are introduced next year. By reducing car numbers, bus journeys will be faster and more efficient, cycling and walking will be made more attractive and safer, and those who need to drive will no longer be stuck in traffic but have easier journeys. We believe that this proposal will help those on lower incomes to get around the city more easily.

We have specific requests for changes that we would like to see in this proposal.

Q 7 and 8 The amount charged

The £5 charge is too low. The amount charged should be more than a return bus journey for an individual. We also want to see weight-based charging so that those vehicles that are most polluting, cause most damage to the road, take up more space, and present more danger to other road users, pay more. Car-weight is also a reasonable proxy for income, thereby making the charge fairer.

Q 9 Use of the income generated

We support the proposed use of the funds raised but we would like to add in, as our priority request, i) a significant expansion of the e-bike hire scheme out to the Park and Rides so that those who wish to cycle into the city have the opportunity to do so and ii) use of the funds to install off-pavement parking for shared e-scooters and e-bikes.

Q13 What else we might do?

We support the Citizens' Assembly recommendations for longer-term change, particularly:

1. Designating some roads for buses, emergency vehicles, blue badge holders, taxis, and cycles
2. Creating a car-free city centre

We also want to see 20mph introduced along all our main arterial roads.

With kind regards

Ian Loader

Chair of Cyclox, the voice of cycling in Oxford

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This response is prepared by Cyclox, the cycle campaign group for Oxford. We campaign to put cycling at the heart of Oxford's future. Our purpose is to get more people cycling, more often, and more safely in and around Oxford. We collaborate with key decision makers to put cycling on the public agenda; partner with active travel and low-carbon groups; and engage with the local community to inform, encourage, and support change.