

Road user charging in London

City Planning



The case for road user charging developed over a number of years

1995

The general case established by the London Congestion Charging Research Programme

1999

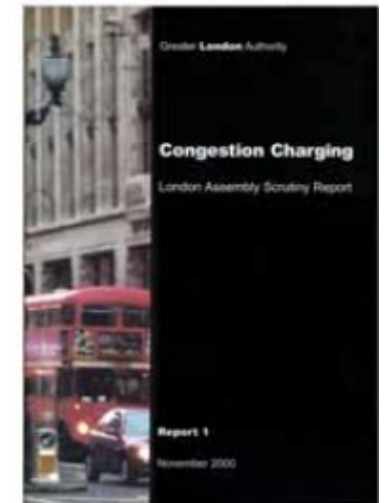
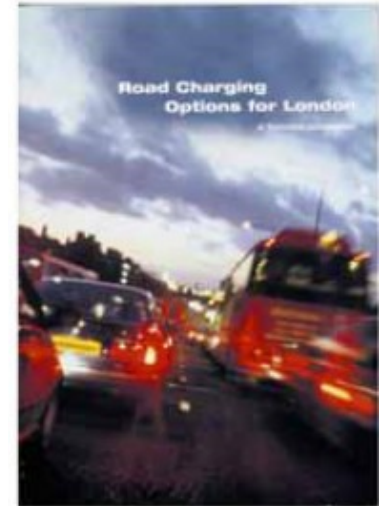
Mayor and Local Authorities were given the legal powers to introduce charging

March
2000

Report looking at that a charging system based on vehicle registration number with a £5 daily charge

May
2000

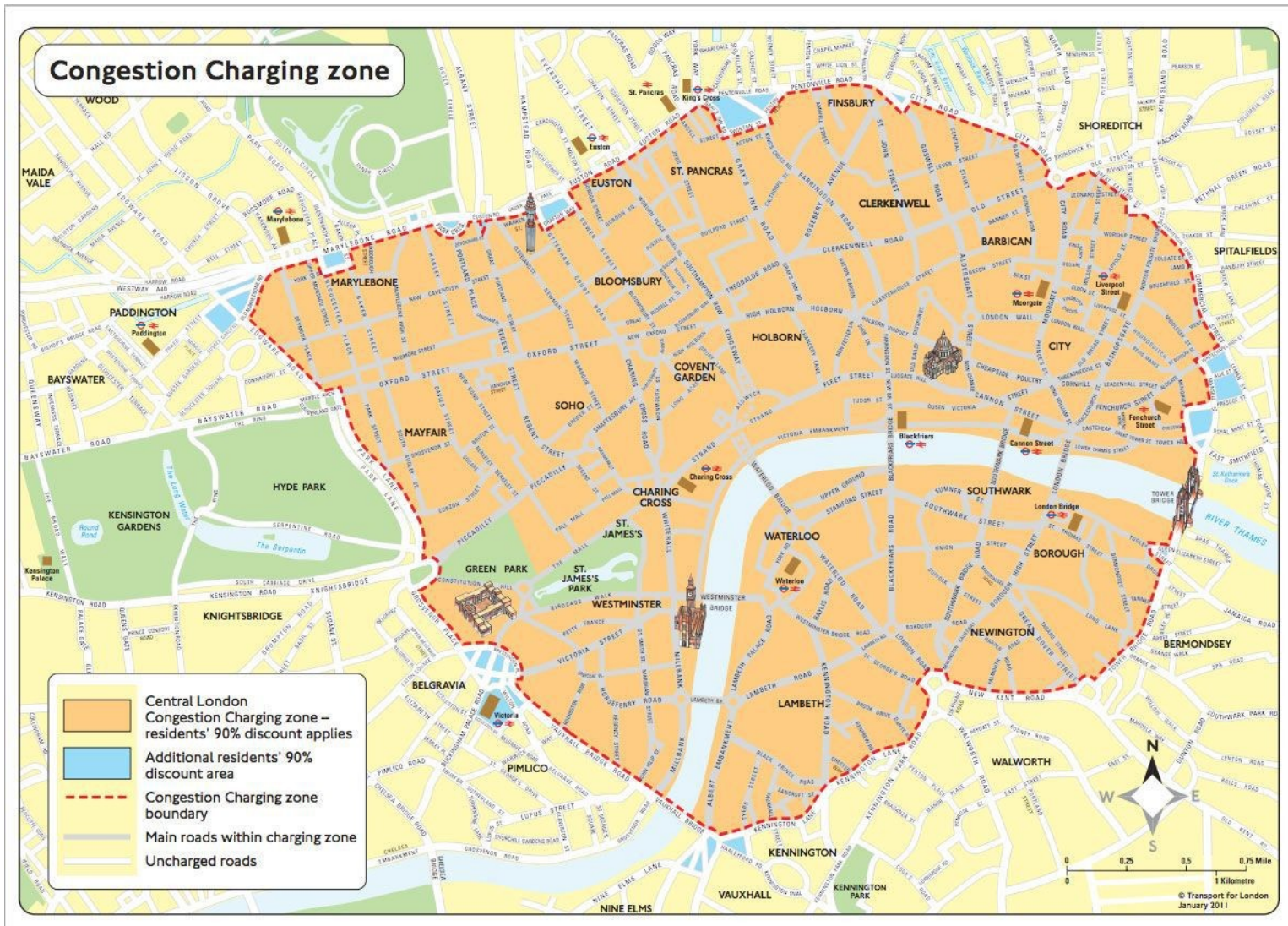
Ken Livingstone elected Mayor on a commitment to consult on a charging scheme in central London



The current Congestion Charge went live in February 2003

The charge applies Monday to Friday 0700 – 1800

The charge is £11.50



In conjunction with a range of complementary measures



Substantial increase in bus capacity in and around the zone



Freeze in public transport fares



Better information for public transport users

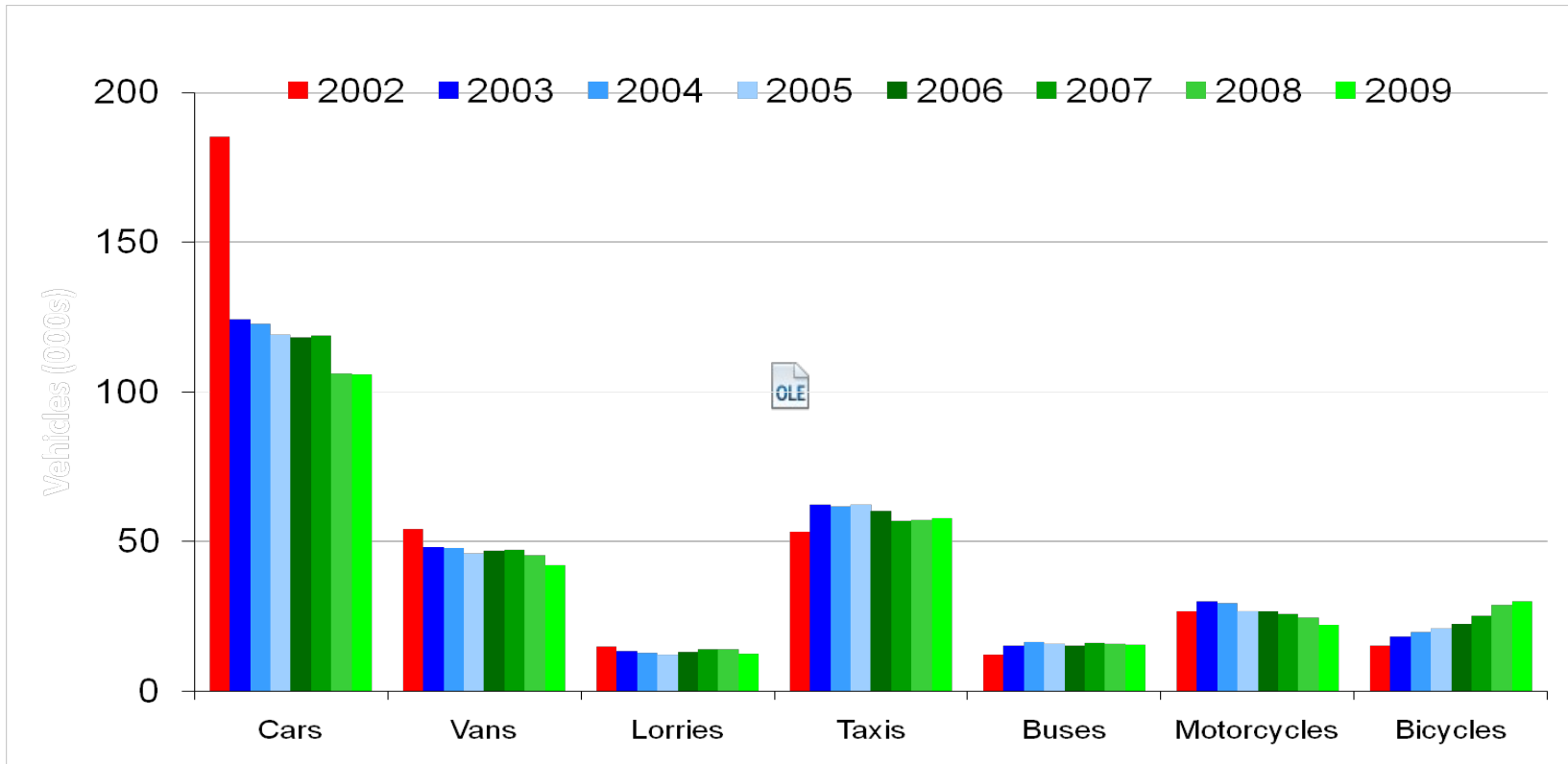


Frequency improvements on train and Underground services into the zone



Traffic management measures on diversion routes and roads around the zone

The impact of the scheme was monitored for five years

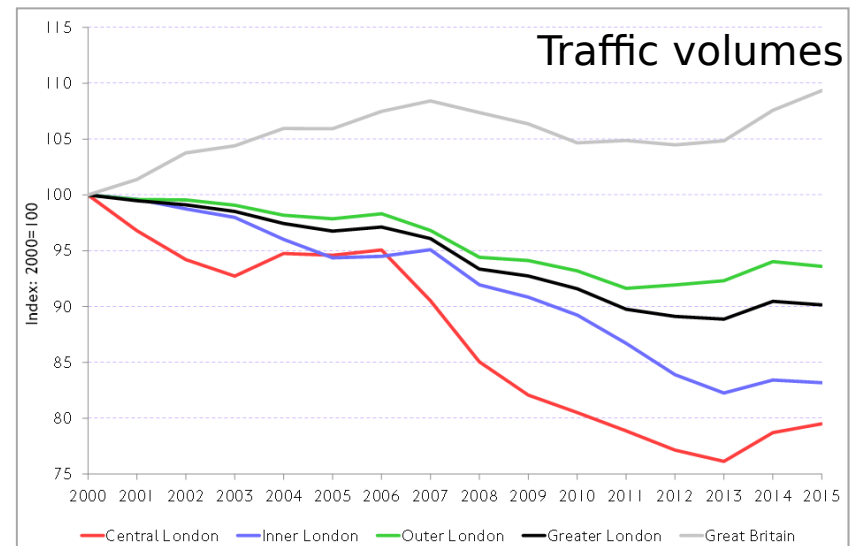
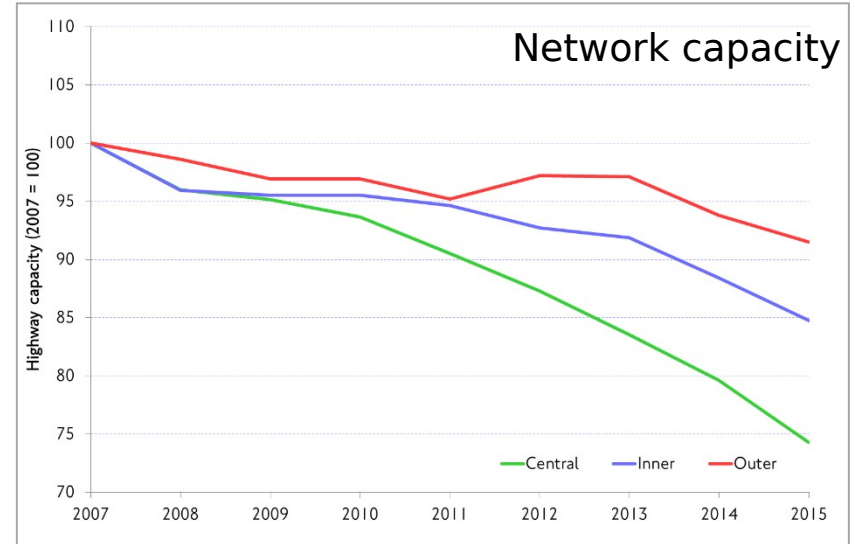


The average daily traffic entering the zone during charging hours decreased by 18 per cent following the introduction of the Congestion Charge

Congestion decreased by 30 per cent following the introduction of the Congestion Charge

Traffic has remained broadly stable but congestion has started to rise again

- The scheme was very effective the short term in achieving its objectives
- Traffic in central London has remained stable or continued to decline by a small amount until very recently
- Over time, congestion has increased, although without the scheme in place it would be far worse
- The increase in congestion was due to a combination of specific incidents but also an overall reduction in network capacity due to urban realm schemes, sustainable mode measures and increased works/ construction



How we have adapted the scheme in response to the pandemic

On 23 March, in line with tightening lockdown restrictions, we suspended the Congestion Charge.

After seven weeks, we reinstated on 18 May as Government advice changed - even before the scheme was reinstated, car traffic was above pre lockdown levels.

In order to prevent a car based recovery and support the reallocation of road space to walking and cycling a number of temporary changes to the scheme have been put in place. They include:

- Increasing charge level to £15 (from £11.50)
- Increase charging hours to 0700 - 2200 and to seven days a week
- Remove the AutoPay and Fleet discount
- Close the residents' discount (90%) to new applicants

Charges are temporary and will be kept under review.

