



Members Newsletter

Issue 2018/4 – July / August

SUMMER EDITION

I know that the last few weeks are probably some of the busiest for our industry, especially those involved in school transport. Now that the summer holidays are about to begin, this is a time to take stock and reflect on what is next!



FROM THE CHAIRMAN – STEPHEN TELLING

Clean Air Zones and ULEZ – Is Compliance Possible – Monday 24 September

We have a very exciting autumn lined up. As well as our educational tour to Spin in October, we are hosting a workshop on **Monday 24 September between 13:30 and 17:00**, all about Clean Air and Compliance with the ULEZ changes.

We have confirmed speakers from Transport for London and Green Urban, and both EminoX and Volvo have also promised to attend. Steve Skinner, our resident expert from Skinners of Oxted will also give a view from an operator's perspective.

A lot of hard work is being put in by the LTCOA Directors to make sure that this is an afternoon worth coming to. You are welcome to bring fellow operators even if they are not members, as a way of encouraging them to join. More details will be sent out in August, but please put the date in your diary now.

Welcome to New Members

We welcome three new members to our Association.

- Corbel of London
- London Travelin
- South Mimms Travel

We are looking forward to seeing them at future events. If you know of an operator who you think would like to join us why not invite them?

Have a great rest of the summer

CHANGES TO THE ULTRA LOW EMISSION ZONES AND LOW EMISSION ZONE – A RECAP

It appears that there is still some confusion about the changes, especially around the dates. So, to recap:

8 April 2019

The Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) will be introduced in **central London**, within what is currently the Congestion Charge zone. All heavy vehicles (lorries, coaches, buses and other heavy specialist vehicles) will need to meet the Euro VI standard for Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) and Particulate Matter (PM). It will apply 24 hours a day, every day of the year. All vehicles that do not meet emission standards will be liable to pay a daily charge to drive within the zone. The ULEZ will replace the current T-Charge.

26 October 2020

The Ultra-Low Emission Zone standards for heavy vehicles will be expanded to apply **throughout the current Low Emission Zone (ie the vast majority of Greater London)**. Therefore, across our capital city, coaches and other heavy vehicles will need to meet the Euro VI standard for Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) and Particulate Matter (PM). All vehicles that do not meet emission standards will be liable to pay a daily charge to drive within the zone, which increases if vehicles do not meet the Euro 4 PM standard.

We will go into more detail of the charges that will apply nearer the time.

Educational Tour – Sunsundegi Factory Spain

Sponsored by
Volvo Bus

Monday 22 to Wednesday 24 October 2018

Included in the price of the tour

- Flight departs on Monday from Stansted Airport to Biarritz then transfer to San Se Bastion
- 2 nights' Accommodation at the Hotel in San Se Bastion on a Bed and Breakfast basis;
- Morning visit on Tuesday to the Sunsundegi Factory; afternoon visit to a local place of interest followed by dinner hosted by Volvo & Sunsundegi
- Return to the UK on Wednesday afternoon
- **Cost of the Tour is £140.00 per person (single room supplement is £25.00);**

We have two spare spaces. Please contact Stephen Telling quickly if you would like to come and join us.

Proposed changes to the Congestion Charge in Central London

Transport for London (TfL) have recently announced the start of another new consultation relating to the Congestion Charge in central London. Interestingly they comment that when it was first introduced in 2003 it led to a 15% reduction in traffic in the zone, which in turn led to a 30% reduction in congestion as well as improvements to air quality.

However, in recent years the average traffic delay has been on the increase for a variety of reasons. This includes, as we all know the reallocation of road space to cyclists, but also, and more importantly as far as this consultation goes, vehicles entering the zone which are exempt from the charge. TfL state that now only around 50% of vehicles that enter the Congestion Charge zone (CCZ) pay the full amount, with others qualifying for a discounted rate or are exempt entirely.

TfL are proposing to redress the balance and propose the following:

- **Removing the exemption to the Congestion Charge for Private Hire Vehicles (PHV's);**
- Replacing the Ultra Low Emission Discount, which mainly relates to cars and vans that meet certain standards, with a new phased Cleaner Vehicle Discount;
- Some other minor changes including amending the zone boundary at the Old Street roundabout to reflect the improvements planned there over the course of the next year. That, of course will also impact the boundary of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) which is the same as the CCZ.

From the Associations viewpoint, the most important aspect of this consultation is the removal of the exemption for PHV's. TfL state that the number of these vehicles entering the zone during charging hours is now **18,000**, compared to just **4,000** in 2003. Taxi's, and PHV's that meet accessibility standards or the Cleaner Vehicle Discount standards will continue to be exempt.

If the proposal is implemented, more or less as proposed, it should make an identifiable difference to the amount of congestion in central London as well as contributing to the Mayor's Healthy Streets programme by reducing emissions still further.

TfL are likely to receive a large number of comments for the proposals, both for and against. Make sure that you have your say at:

<https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/policy/private-hire-charge-exemption/>

The Association will also be submitting a response; please do let us know if there is anything you would like us to include.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION & DEVELOPMENT'S DESK



Peter Bradley

Summer is with us and there are two big impacts on the London road network in the next few weeks

Firstly, there is the annual **Prudential RideLondon cycling event on Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 July**, which will have a significant impact on traffic as follows:

- On Saturday 28 July between 05:00 and 19:30 in central London
- On Sunday 29 July between 04:00 to 20:00 in east, central and south west London and in the affected parts of Surrey

Roads between Tower Bridge and Commercial Street will be busier than usual and your journey may take up to twice as long, especially between 16:00 and 20:00 on Saturday.

There will also be significant disruption on London's roads on Sunday, in particular around Battersea Park Road, the A308 in Kingston and the A13 Newham Way, where journey times are anticipated to double. Drivers will be unable to cross the route and journeys from west to south or southwest London will need to be made via the M25.

In addition, a large number of central London's coach parking bays will be closed on both days. This includes all coach parking on Park Lane northbound between Curzon Gate and Grosvenor Gate on Sunday 29 July.

Further details may be found via the following link: <https://tfl.gov.uk/status-updates/major-works-and-events/ridelondon>

Secondly, **Victoria Embankment, westbound, will be closed to through traffic from Monday 6 August until mid-September 2018.**

Cadent (formerly National Grid Gas) are replacing two gas mains for the Tideway Blackfriars project. Trial excavations will take place during this summer closure, **ahead of the full gas main replacement next year.**

Signed diversions will be in place at Tower Bridge and Southwark Bridge for westbound access south of the river.

- Via Southwark Bridge, Southwark Street, Stamford Street (Waterloo Bridge for West End), York Road and Westminster Bridge (inside the Congestion Charge zone)

- Via Tower Bridge Road, New Kent Road, Elephant & Castle, Kennington Lane and Vauxhall Bridge (outside the Congestion Charge zone)

The impact on traffic in the immediate area will be significant. Members are encouraged to take this into account when planning journeys into London whilst these works are taking place. For more information visit <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/victoria-embankment>.

On other matters I do hope you are enjoying the regular **London Latest** column in **Bus and Coach Buyer** each week, which the LTCOA is contributing to and the monthly column in **RouteOne**. This is another way of keeping up to date of all that is happening.

Finally, I am aware that the Association **website** needs updating. This has been a long time in the planning, but we are working hard behind the scenes. I hope it will not be too long before you see some improvements.

LTCOA MEMBERS EVENT SCHEDULE 2018-19

Monday 24 September; 13:30 to 17:00

Clean Air Zones and ULEZ – Is Compliance Possible – Workshop discussing Clean Air and Future Technologies - Hilton Garden Inn, Eastern Perimeter Road, Hatton Cross, London, TW6 2SQ

Monday 22 to Wednesday 24 October

Educational Tour - Sunsundegi Factory, Spain, hosted by Volvo

Monday 19 November (Time to be announced)

Hilton Garden Inn, Eastern Perimeter Road, Hatton Cross, London, TW6 2SQ

Tuesday 4 December

LTCOA Christmas Dinner – Location to be agreed

Monday 14 January 2019 (Time to be announced)

Hilton Garden Inn, Eastern Perimeter Road, Hatton Cross, London, TW6 2SQ

Saturday 2 February 2019 18:15 for 19:15

The LTCOA 32nd Annual Dinner Dance – The Palace Suite, The Royal Garden Hotel, 2-24 Kensington High Street, W8 4PT

Monday 11 March 2019 (Time to be announced)

AGM - Hilton Garden Inn, Eastern Perimeter Road, Hatton Cross, London, TW6 2SQ

CONTACT US

Address LTCOA, Little Owl Farm, Halebourne Lane, Chobham Surrey, GU24 8SL
Telephone 07802 679795
Email peterbradley@ltcoa.co.uk
Website ltcoa.co.uk