

TfL announces trial of Intelligent Speed Adaptation

Speed limiting technology to be tested for market place

Transport for London (TfL) on the 11th May announced a six month trial of the Intelligent Speed Adaptation (ISA) technology which aims to reduce road casualties and help drivers avoid speeding penalties.

As part of the trial, which will start this summer, a London bus will be fitted with ISA. The TfL Road Safety Unit is also keen to trial the technology in a Licensed Taxi, alongside 20 TfL vehicles driven by road engineers, traffic managers and highway inspectors.

The intelligent technology enables drivers to select an option where acceleration is stopped automatically at the speed limit specific to any road in London within the M25 area. The unit can be disabled at the touch of a button, at which point it reverts to an advisory status where the current, legal speed limit is simply displayed as a driver aid. There is also a complete over-ride switch which disables the system entirely.

The practical uses of the technology will be tested in the six month trial after which a report will be submitted to the Mayor of London and the technology will be made available to external organisations. Southwark Council has already expressed an interest in fitting ISA to more than 300 of its vehicles.

The trial will monitor driver behaviour, journey times and the effect that driving within the speed limit has on vehicle emissions.

ISA uses the digital speed limit map of London which TfL launched on 29 January 2009. This is the first time all of London's speed limits have been mapped accurately with regular updates.

Other GPS device manufacturers are being encouraged to take advantage of this resource which could help to improve road safety in the capital by introducing a speed limit display and warning in their satellite products.

It is estimated that if two thirds of London drivers use the ISA system, the number of road casualties in the Capital could be reduced by 10 per cent*.

Chris Lines, Head of TfL's London Road Safety Unit, said: "This innovative technology could help any driver in London avoid the unnecessary penalties of creeping over the speed limit, and at the same time it will save lives.

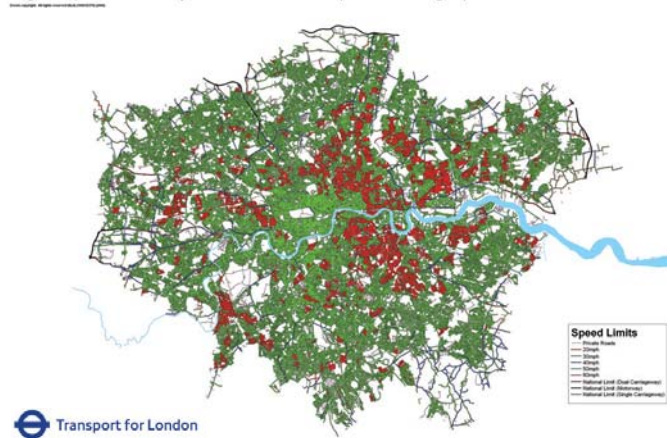
"We know the technology works, and now we want to know how drivers in all types of vehicles respond to it.

"ISA is intended as a road safety device, but if Londoners embrace this technology we may well see additional benefits including reduced congestion as a result of collisions and reduced vehicle emissions as drivers adopt a smoother driving style."

More Information for members on the LPHCA Website: www.lphca.co.uk

Could this be the end of the speed hump?

Digital Speed Limit Map of Greater London (all 33 Boroughs)



ROUT THE TOUT update

A series of meetings have been taking place regarding the issue of 'Touting and enforcement in London'.

The first was hosted by TfL regarding safe late night travel and Private Hire Services in the West End of London at Windsor House late in March.

A second meeting took place in Victoria with the Transport Operational Command Unit and other interested parties in May.

The issue of 'Illegal Activity and Enforcement' in London has been raised by the LPHCA and the Taxi Industry with a direct increase in successful Operations by the Policy and other agencies, including Westminster City Council.

A series of night operations has resulted in several arrests and at least three Licensed Operators having their licences revoked.

The LPHCA welcomes the increase in this activity, which is fulfilling the commitment by Mayor Boris Johnson to 'clamp down and eradicate illegal activity in the capital'.

The Mayor has doubled the number of Officers in TOCU's Cab Enforcement Section and operations are ongoing.

Operators who have applied for Operating Licenses in night clubs should have the appropriate planning consent for such an Operating Centre. Any 'on the street activity' by representatives at such premises remains unlawful. Such Operators should also be mindful of their obligations with regard to parking as waiting outside premises without a booking could be construed to be illegal.

Further news will be posted on the members area of our website at www.lphca.co.uk

CRB MEETING IN PARLIAMENT

The LPHCA were kindly invited by the GMB Professional Drivers Branch to a meeting with representatives from the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) in Parliament on 5th May.

The invite was very timely as we were seeking dialogue with the CRB on a range of issues including delays in the checking process, the levels of checking and greater dialogue with the CRB.

Robin Hulf and Eddie Townson completed the LPHCA contingent and there will be further action and progress to report in due course.

This invite demonstrates that when Operators and Driver Representative Bodies have sensible dialogue everyone benefits. Many thanks to the GMB Professional Drivers Branch and to those who took the time and trouble, to attend this worthwhile meeting.

