Election Briefing 9

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The cost of congestion in London

London has the most congested roads in Europe

Based on 2024 INRIX data, London is confirmed as having the most congested roads in Europe for the fourth consecutive year, with drivers losing 101 hours to traffic annually. Average speeds in the city are as low as 18kmph (11.2mph), ranking it fifth globally. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c785pv31y7vo#:~:text=London's%20roads%20were%20the%20most,%2C%20employment%20and%20economic%20activity%22

But the number of vehicles on London's roads has not risen

The number of vehicles on London's roads is much the same as it was a decade ago although vehicle miles driven in 2024 (19.4 billion) are nearly back at pre-LTN (2019) levels (20.3 billion). https://roadtraffic.dft.gov.uk/regions/E12000007 The percentage share of trips made by private transport in 2024 (36.6%) is about the same as 2019 (36.4%), https://content.tfl.gov.uk/travel-in-london-2025-consolidated-estimates-of-total-travel-and-mode-shares-acc.pdf

Business in London is losing billions due to congestion

Congestion is estimated to cost London's economy £3.85 billion in 2024. https://inrix.com/press-releases/2024-global-traffic-scorecard-uk/

Bus speeds are their lowest ever

Bus speeds in London have fallen to some of their lowest levels in recent history, dropping below 9 mph on average. As a result passenger numbers have declined, with operators describing the current conditions as the worst they have seen in 40 years. The independent watchdog London TravelWatch has found that 33% of surveyed passengers said slow buses stop them from using the service more often.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c8dyrre2lm2o#:~:text=Bus%20speeds%20in%20London%20have,time%20that%20bus%20speeds%20are.%22

The percentage of trips in London made by bike is less than 5%

Despite daily journeys rising 43% since 2019 to 1.5 million in 2025 and despite £1.69 billion of cycling-related investment, cycling still only accounts for 4.7% of all trips in London. https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-london-assembly-does/questions-mayor/find-an-answer/cycling-mode-share-london

Record number of cyclists seriously injured

The number of cyclists seriously injured in London is on track to reach a record 1,200 per year. https://www.lbc.co.uk/article/cycling-accidents-london-e-bike-crashes-5HjdSC9_2/