

## **Transport Innovation Fund (TIF)**

**Many questions are being asked about the proposed changes in the Public Transport System and the introduction of a peak time only Congestion Charge which would result if the outcome of the forthcoming referendum is to support the TIF package.**

**The following provides answers to some of the most frequently asked questions.**

**Q I live in Oldham and I hardly ever go into Manchester, so what has the Road Congestion Charge got to do with me?**

A The Road Congestion Charge is part of the biggest ever transportation improvement plan in our area. Support for the Charge will mean something like £3billion being spent on extensions to Metrolink, better bus and rail services and safer routes for cyclists. It should also reduce peak-hour traffic around Manchester. Many of the improvements will directly benefit Oldham.

**Q We are already going to get a Metrolink tram service along the Manchester to Rochdale line, so what other benefits will we see in Oldham?**

A The already approved Metrolink line will bring trams to Oldham, but not to the Town Centre. The improvement plan, known as the Transport Innovation Fund, if approved, will pay for the trams to come into the heart of Oldham Town Centre, with all that means for jobs and better access in our town and to its facilities.

**Q Where will the trams stop when the scheme is finished?**

A Stops are proposed at Westwood, Oldham King Street, Oldham Central and a relocated stop will be provided at Oldham Mumps. It will help reduce congestion in Oldham Town Centre and improve the environment as well.

**Q How often will the trams operate?**

A On weekdays the trams will operate each way every six minutes between Manchester and Shaw and every 12 minutes between Shaw and Rochdale. Early morning and in the evenings there will be a service every 12 minutes and on Sundays there will be trams every 15 minutes.

**Q If I work locally will trams help?**

A Of course, especially if you work in Oldham Town Centre, and the trams will provide better access to regeneration areas in Oldham such as Central Park, Hollinwood and Kingsway Business Park.

**Q Will our bus services be cut once Metrolink is built in Oldham?**

A Far from it: bus services will be vastly improved. Across Oldham bus services will increase by 10%, with even greater increases in the evenings and on Sundays. For

example Route 59 from Shaw, through Oldham to Middleton and Manchester will be increased from 4 to 8 buses an hour. Service 83 from Sholver to Manchester will be strengthened. This will mean an increase from 6 to 8 buses an hour between Sholver, Moorside and Oldham and along Manchester Road between Failsworth and Oldham.

**Q What about buses to Royal Oldham Hospital?**

A The service between Oldham and Middleton will see an increased frequency, with buses diverted directly to serve Royal Oldham Hospital.

**Q What about areas such as Shaw?**

A The frequency of route 403 will increase to 3 an hour during the day with a Sunday service operating for the first time. The route will be altered so it links with the Metrolink.

**Q Has Saddleworth been forgotten?**

A No. There will be more buses between Oldham and Greenfield. On route 180 the weekday service will go from 2 an hour to 4 an hour, with 2 buses an hour on Sundays.

**Q Will it affect train services?**

A Rail will continue to be a major part of Saddleworth's transport service. Too many people have to stand at peak-times because the trains are packed. Talks are taking place with the train and rail operators to develop a major improvement package that will add extra carriages to trains on the line from Manchester to Leeds serving Greenfield, with further improvements to Greenfield Station providing CCTV, more real-time information, better seats and shelters. Similar improvements are planned for Mills Hill on the Manchester to Bradford line.

**Q Can I still use my car for part of my journey?**

A Yes. This strategy is not anti-motorist; its aim is to make it easier for you to make your way around. That is why there will be far more park and ride spaces – an extra 164 at Shaw and Crompton on Metrolink and 283 more at Mills Hill on the railway network.

**Q I currently use my car because I start work in Manchester very early/finish very late. Will I be able to use public transport instead?**

A There will be more early morning buses for Oldham people. The first bus from Oldham will reach Manchester City Centre by 6am. Similarly last services at night will operate later than they currently do with the last bus leaving the City Centre after 11-30pm.

**Q Should I invest in a bicycle?**

A There's a whole package of improvements to benefit cyclists in Oldham. These will make it safer to cycle, particularly along the main public transport corridors. There will be more off-road routes designed especially for cyclists to make their journey safer and more attractive.

**Q I use the M60 on my way to work. Will I have to pay?**

A No. There is no charge for using the M60 at any time.

**Q When will I pay the Road Charge?**

A Motorists crossing the outer-ring off the M60 towards Manchester will pay £2 between 7am and 9-30am. There will be a second ring just outside the city centre. Crossing the inner ring between 7am and 9-30am will cost £1. On the outward journey back to Oldham there will be a £1 charge for crossing the inner ring between 4pm and 6-30pm and £1 for crossing the outer ring between 4pm and 6-30pm. Motorists heading from Oldham towards Manchester during the evening peak period (4pm to 6-30pm) will not pay. Only outward bound traffic between these times, heading from Manchester, will pay.

**Q Are these prices fixed?**

The charges announced are at today's prices. The scheme does provide for charges to be increased. However they will be no more than the equivalent of these prices when the scheme is introduced in 2013. If the charge is introduced the average weekday daily charge at 2008 prices would be less than £3, and at 2013 prices (target date for introduction) it would be no more than £3.60.

**Q I work weekends. Will I have to pay?**

A There's no charge at all at any time on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays.

**Q I live in Failsworth and work in Oldham, so I will cross the charging point against the inward flow. Will I pay for crossing the point?**

A No. Traffic heading outwards won't pay in the mornings. Nor will you pay for your homeward journey in the evening peak period, when you will again be driving against the flow.

**Q I drive a HGV, so I suppose they will make me pay more?**

A No. The charges will be exactly the same as for cars.

**Q I ride a motorcycle. Will I have to pay the Charge?**

A The current proposal is to make it free for motorcyclists.

**Q I drive a delivery vehicle and make frequent peak-hour journeys. How will the Charge affect me?**

A A day-pass capped at £10 is proposed allowing you to make as many journeys as you wish.

**Q I am a blue badge holder. Do I get a discount?**

A It is proposed you will not have to pay the charge at any time.

**Q I hear people going for medical appointments can get help. Is this right?**

A It is proposed that some patients regularly attending hospitals and specialist health facilities within the M60 for treatment should be entitled to a 100% discount for crossing the charging rings on those days. There are a number of hospitals and specialist health units located within the M60. For most out-patient appointments the combination of improved public transport connections and the development of the NHS “choose and book” national electronic referral service will provide the opportunity for appointments to be attended without the need to pay a congestion charge. However, it is recognised there are a range of specific treatments, which cannot be easily accessed elsewhere and which require regular attendance.

**Q I drive a taxi. Will I pay?**

A No. Licensed taxis as well as private hire taxis will not pay.

**Q I drive my child to school and need to cross the outer ring. Will I pay?**

A If you drive them to school you will have to pay like everybody else. However, more Yellow School Buses are being introduced in Oldham to make it easier for many of our children to get to and from school safely. By 2016 we expect around 20 Yellow School Buses in our town.

**Q I am a low paid worker. Will I have to pay?**

A A 20% discount has been proposed for low paid workers.

**Q When will all of this be decided?**

A There will be a referendum across Greater Manchester, probably in December.

**Q What if the majority vote NO?**

A If there is a No vote the £3bn programme won't happen. Oldham will still get the Metrolink because that is already agreed, but it won't come into the Town Centre, with all that means for jobs, prosperity, congestion, the environment and the prestige of our town.

**If your question is not dealt with here please contact the PTE helpline on 0800 234 6100**