Annex 13

Oxford temporary congestion charge

Monitoring plan

August 2025

Background

The proposed temporary congestion charge would have broadly similar impacts to the approved traffic filter trial, since it uses the traffic filter locations as charging locations. This monitoring plan has therefore been based on the monitoring and evaluation plan for the traffic filter trial.

Purpose of monitoring

The temporary congestion charge would be a temporary precursor to the traffic filter trial, and is expected to be in place for less than a year. Unlike the traffic filters, the scheme is not being trialled with a view to developing a permanent scheme. The monitoring is not therefore intended to be used to decide whether to retain the congestion charge in the longer term.

The purpose of the monitoring is to assess:

- The impact on traffic flows and congestion in the city and whether these translate into expected improvements in bus, cycle and pedestrian provision and usage, and wider improvements in road safety, air quality.
- Any adverse impacts, mainly through traffic displacement and re-routing effects, and whether these have an adverse impact on network performance and resultant effects on air quality, road safety and impacts of local centres
- Impacts on protected characteristic groups
- Impacts on businesses
- Any unintended and unpredicted effects

Publication of data

If the scheme is approved, officers aim to publish data promptly with website updates every month where data is available. More frequent updates would not be feasible or desirable, particularly as most data sources require significant processing to produce results that can be easily interpreted, and shorter time periods may not be representative of actual trends.

Monitoring themes and proposed data sources

Theme	Data source
Traffic flows	Permanent automatic traffic counters
	Ad-hoc traffic surveys
Traffic journey times (congestion)	Inrix Roadway Analytics
Bus journey times	Bus tracking via Cityswift
Air quality	Diffusion tube data and air quality analysers
Pedestrian flows/footfall	Vivacity Labs sensors Huq Lighthouse footfall data
	Ad-hoc traffic surveys
Cycle flows	Vivacity Labs sensors
	Ad-hoc traffic surveys
Spend data	Mastercard spend data via Huq Lighthouse
Car park usage	Ticket machine data
Bus patronage	Bus operator data
Feedback from businesses, organisations, residents, community representatives and others	Face-to-face meetings with businesses and others
	Online feedback survey
	Dedicated email address
Permit & payment system satisfaction	Website usage statistics
	Feedback from customer service centre
	General feedback channels as above