To: media covering Oxfordshire

From: Steve Dawe – Cowley Area Transport Group – [www.catg.org.uk](http://www.catg.org.uk)

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News Release – for Immediate Release

**TREASURY INVESTIGATES ROAD PRICING: major means of managing traffic for Oxfordshire**

The Treasury is investigating electronic road pricing which could have a major influence on how the transport system is funded, and how traffic congestion may be reduced(1). The Cowley Area Transport Group has completed a report which introduces how road pricing could be introduced to the Oxford City Region, which can be seen at: [www.catg.og.uk](http://www.catg.og.uk) under Reports. The Treasury, which froze fuel duty in 2011, faces a massive decline in income as more vehicles on our roads are electric and their owners pay no fuel duty at all. Steve Dawe explains:

“The Treasury needs to fund the entire traffic system including removing about 14 years’ backlog of road repairs, providing more buses where needed, and repairing the damage done by pavement parking. With fuel duty frozen since 2011, and electric vehicles gradually replacing all others on our roads, it needs to act quickly as a new national system will take years to introduce and it needs more funds. Oxford, as a major employment centre with about 46,000 car commuters arriving each working day, needs a system which encourages people to use buses, Park and Rides, trains, or to work more at home. Electronic Road Pricing, in use since 1998 in Singapore, can deter car commuting into congested and polluted areas, and improve action on Climate Change.”

Steve Dawe adds:

“All areas suggested for radical increases in housing may well need means of deterring car journeys too. How on Earth will Bicester and Witney cope with large traffic increases? It is far better to charge vehicle owners, with some exceptions such as for the disabled, buses, taxis and public utility vehicles, and ensure that they have good public transport choices for their journeys.”

Ends

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** Steve Dawe on 07747 036192. Further details about the Cowley Area Transport Group at [www.catg.org.uk](http://www.catg.org.uk)

Note: See: the I newspaper, 16th November 2020; <https://www.expressandstar.com/news/uk-news/2020/11/16/treasury-looking-to-road-pricing-as-sales-of-electric-cars-rise/>