

NEW CAMERAS CRACK DOWN ON CONGESTION

Intelligent traffic cameras which can detect jams as they build up are set to revolutionise the way Transport for London (TfL) tackles congestion in the Capital. TfL has spent £160,000 over the last three years developing this technology and £45,000 was invested in setting up the current system. Twenty of these cameras which are fitted with special image recognition technology have been put at traffic hot spots across London. They are able to automatically spot and alert TfL's traffic control centre if congestion builds up, allowing operators to identify and take action to deal with incidents much faster. Receiving alerts from the new cameras allows operators to focus their efforts on dealing with congestion rather than having to trawl through all of London's traffic cameras looking for jams.

Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, said: "These cameras have a really important role to play in keeping London moving. The chaps in TfL's control centre have a monster of a job scanning through the cameras looking for accidents or incidents that will slow traffic. So having cameras that can actually spot when traffic builds up and

let the operators know is massively helpful and means they can get people moving again far quicker."

The image recognition incident detection (IRID) technology has been developed by TfL's technical experts in partnership with Ipsotek Ltd. Operators receive between six and ten alerts each day and around 80 per cent of these are verified as genuine congestion problems. In one month alone (February 2009), 64 incidents of congestion were picked up via the alerts before either operators, Police or members of the public were able to flag them. The cameras have been positioned at junctions where it is known that congestion, from even minor incidents such as a broken down vehicle, can build up onto surrounding roads and have a significant impact on traffic causing delays for all road users. Information received from the cameras has also been put to wider use. The recurring congestion detected they detected in Surrey Quays resulted in new permanent traffic plans with improved signal timings. These resulted in less alerts and smoother traffic conditions in the area.

Alan Bristow, TfL's Director of Traffic Operations, said: "Our traffic co-ordinators have a busy job, monitoring more than a thousand traffic cameras around the clock to keep London's roads flowing smoothly. The use of a more intelligent system like the image recognition cameras has made it much faster and easier to identify and react to congestion on the Capital's roads. We are now looking at how we expand the use of this technology to further improve conditions for all of London's road users"

The 20 traffic cameras that currently use IRID technology are located at:

A10 Southbury Road, Old Kent Road, A205 Brixton Road, Albert Embankment, Vauxhall Bridge, Tooting Bec, London Bridge, A205 West Hill, A3 Kingston Road/Roehampton Lane, Battersea Bridge, A40 Bayswater Road/Westbourne Street, A501 City Road, A501/Marylebone Road and Camden Road/York Way.

PCO Notice 28/09

Transport for London
Public Carriage Office



Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle drivers' licences: Late renewal applications

The PCO receives many applications to renew taxi and PHV driver licences that are submitted by drivers after the expiry of their existing licence.

Once a driver's licence has expired he or she is no longer licensed, their hire and reward insurance will be invalid and they will not be able to work as a taxi or PHV driver. All drivers are therefore urged to submit their renewal (re-licensing) applications in good time.

In the event of a driver submitting an application for the renewal of a licence after the expiry of the previous licence the immediate issue of a new licence will be at the discretion of the PCO. However, it is possible that the driver may have to wait until all processes, including the return of a satisfactory CRB Disclosure, have been completed before a licence can be issued.

Any driver applying to renew his or her licence more than three months after the expiry of the preceding licence will be treated as a new applicant. Any benefit of being continuously licensed will be lost and the driver will have to wait until all necessary checks have been completed before a licence can be issued.

If a taxi driver has been unlicensed for a significant length of time he or she may also be required to undergo a Knowledge of London re-test to ensure that their Knowledge remains up to date.

The PCO licensing teams will send a re-licensing application pack to a driver's home address 8 weeks before their licence is due to expire. This will contain all the forms and information a driver needs to be licensed for a further three years. To allow time for it to be processed, it is imperative that a driver submits his or her application at least 21 days before their existing licence expires. To ensure that they receive their re-licensing pack, drivers are reminded of their responsibility to notify the PCO in writing of any change of address during the period of the licence. Any driver who has not received their re-licensing pack 28 days in advance of the expiry of their licence should contact the PCO as a matter of urgency.

If there is reason why a driver will not be able to submit their re-licensing application on time (e.g. because of illness, extended holiday, etc.) they should advise the PCO at the earliest opportunity.

Mary Dowdye
Head of Standards & Regulations

25 August 2009
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MAYOR OF LONDON

APPEAL FOR A WITNESS

My name is Steve Donovan and I drive an Atlantic blue TX2 reg no MLS55 LDE. An alleged incident between two passengers and myself happened on Wednesday 12 August 2009, at the junction of Southampton Road and Mansfield Road NW3 between 23.30pm to 00.00pm. My passengers were sick in my cab, losing me a night's work. They paid the fare £11.80 but not the spoilage charge and then an argument ensued. I have been accused of common assault. I totally repudiate these allegations and hereby seek a witness. Thank you, Steve Donovan. Please contact mobile 07941172259 or email stevedonovan@f2s.com

AGM FOR WAR DISABLED CHARITY *By Derek Leone*

The annual general meeting of The London Taxi Benevolent Association For War Disabled will take place at 3 P.M. on Monday 9th November 2009 at The Royal Hospital Chelsea S.W.3.

Nominations must be sent in writing duly proposed and seconded by first post on the 12th November 2009 to the Secretary, Paul Davis, 88, Grasvenor Avenue, Barnet, Herts EN5 2DB.

Due to the extra security would any person's who wish to attend, please contact the Secretary, Paul Davis by 4th November 2009 on mobile 07860850102.