

TO: Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee
RE: Motion for a Fare Free Day

I am writing on behalf of the London Environmental Network (LEN) to share our support for the proposed motion of an LTC Fare Free Day, to celebrate World Car Free Day on September 22, 2024.

The LEN has been a long-time advocate of active transportation as a way to reduce London's emissions and create a sustainable city. We promote active transportation events and member organizations year-round. Specific examples include promoting and participating in London's Mobility Master Plan feedback surveys and hosting an annual transportation-focused employee engagement challenge ("Green Wheel") for local businesses in our Green Economy London program. Our organization has several measures to encourage active transportation among our staff, including bus pass reimbursement and becoming a member of London Cycle Link's [Bike Friendly Business program](#).

The local volunteer group's plan for a free transit day would be a huge draw for Londoners to participate in the day more effectively. We've seen previous examples of thousands of Londoners coming together to make an impact, from climate action marches to litter clean-ups. When people see their friends, coworkers, and neighbours participate in a local movement, it inspires and encourages them to get involved too. This day may introduce a whole group of people to public transit and encourage them to use this service regularly.

The car-free working group's plans are sure to make it a memorable one for London. David Stanford recently contacted LEN about his ideas and desire to get a volunteer group going. As a network, nothing is more exciting than seeing more community members step up and take action in the city! LEN is thrilled to support these initiatives and participate in World Car Free Day.

A Fare Free Day is a great follow-up action for London's new mode share targets. It's also a great example of the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) in full force: it is a community-led action backed by the City that will create city-wide benefits. It would also be a great milestone for London, showcasing London as an example of what equitable and sustainable transportation initiatives can look like.

The LEN wholeheartedly supports the motion proposed by Councillor Franke for a Fare Free Day on September 22nd. We hope to see City Council support this motion to provide all Londoners with the opportunity to participate in World Car Free Day this year.

Sincerely,

Leah Derikx
Interim Executive Director, London Environmental Network
www.londonenvironment.net