

Update on Oxford Transport Plans June 2022

Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford City Council

Overall vision



An affordable, comprehensive **bus network**, run with modern zero emission buses, able to travel at the speed limit 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



A comprehensive, safe **cycle network**, to rival the best in Europe



Beautifully designed **streets and public spaces**, with clean air

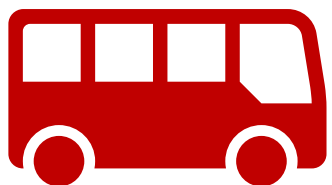


Congestion-free roads for residents, visitors and businesses to make **essential journeys** in zero emission vehicles



Carbon neutral transport for a carbon neutral city

Challenges



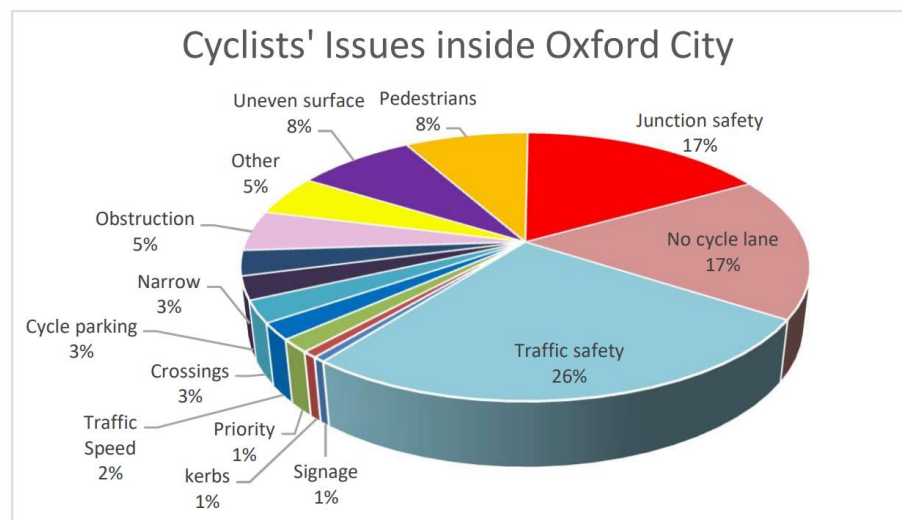
- Peak bus speeds can be as low as 8 mph on some bus routes
- Patronage down about a quarter compared to pre-Covid
- Weaker routes will be cut back or withdrawn when government funding ends
- Little prospect of investment in new vehicles

Source: Oxford Bus Company and Stagecoach



- In Oxford, 17% of carbon emissions and 40% of nitrogen dioxide emissions come from road transport

Source: Climate Emergency Strategy Support report 2019 and Oxford Source Apportionment Study 2020



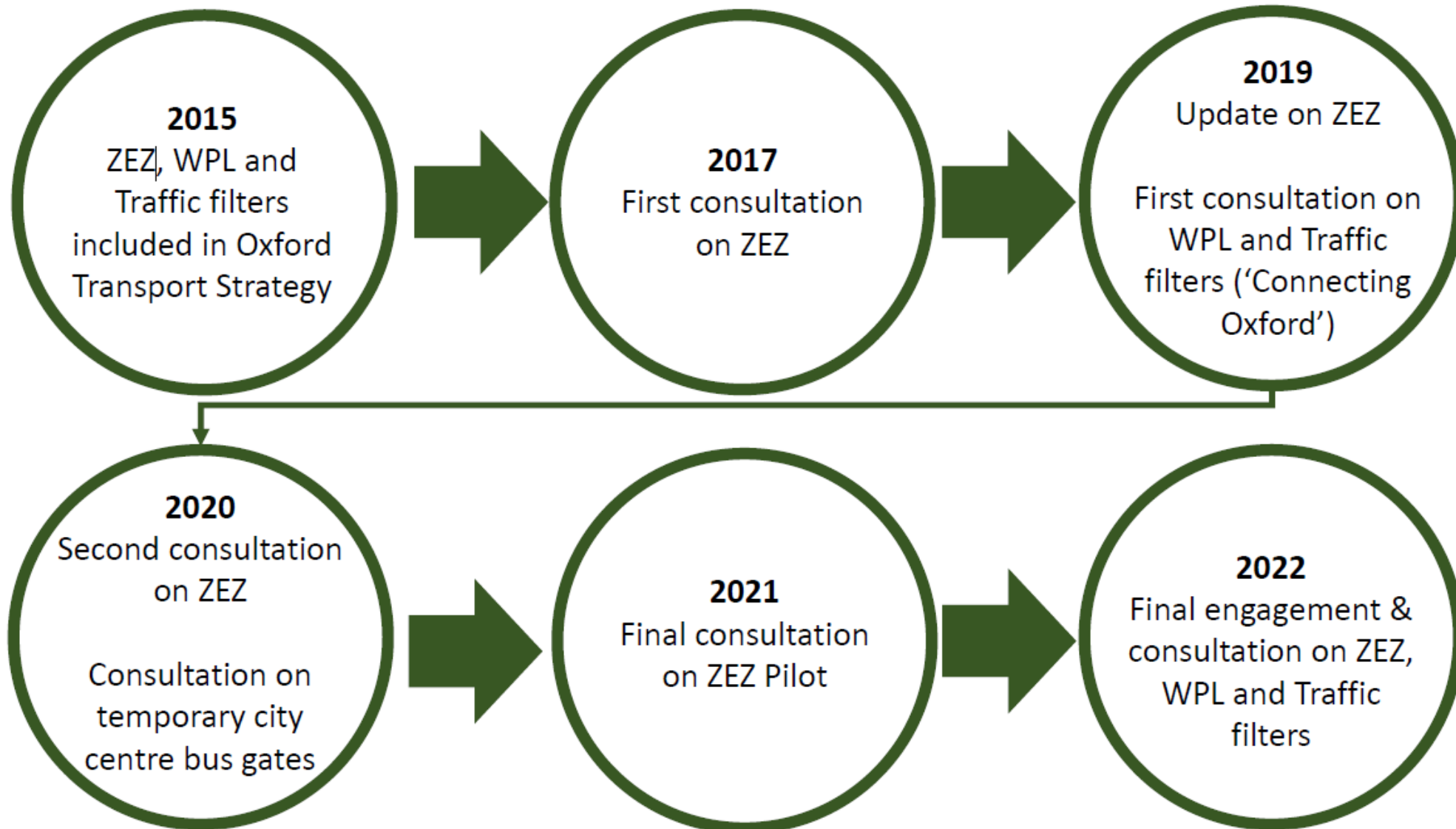
Source: Oxfordshire Cycle Survey 2019, based on 4648 responses



- Visitor satisfaction for Oxford is 39%, compared to the average of 48% for other UK cities
- Congestion and lack of public spaces contribute to lower satisfaction

Source: Report of the Tourism Management Review Group, 2019

Transport in Oxford – story so far



Core schemes

Traffic filters	<p>Points on a road through which only certain types of traffic are allowed to pass, similar to Oxford High Street bus gate.</p> <p>Enforced by signs and automatic number plate recognition cameras; will allow exemption or permitted vehicles to pass (e.g. cyclists, buses - exact list to be decided).</p>
Workplace parking levy	<p>An annual charge paid by employers for each commuter parking space they provide for their staff. Visitor, customer and blue badge holder parking are not included. Employers can choose whether to pass the charge on to staff.</p>
Zero emission zone	<p>A zone in which drivers must pay a road user charge linked to vehicle emissions. Unless exempt, only 100% zero emission vehicles can be driven in the zone free of charge.</p>

Changes from previously published proposals



Traffic filters: an additional traffic filter is now proposed in St Clements, in addition to the original five included in the previous consultation. Further gates may be proposed through the detailed work and consultation.

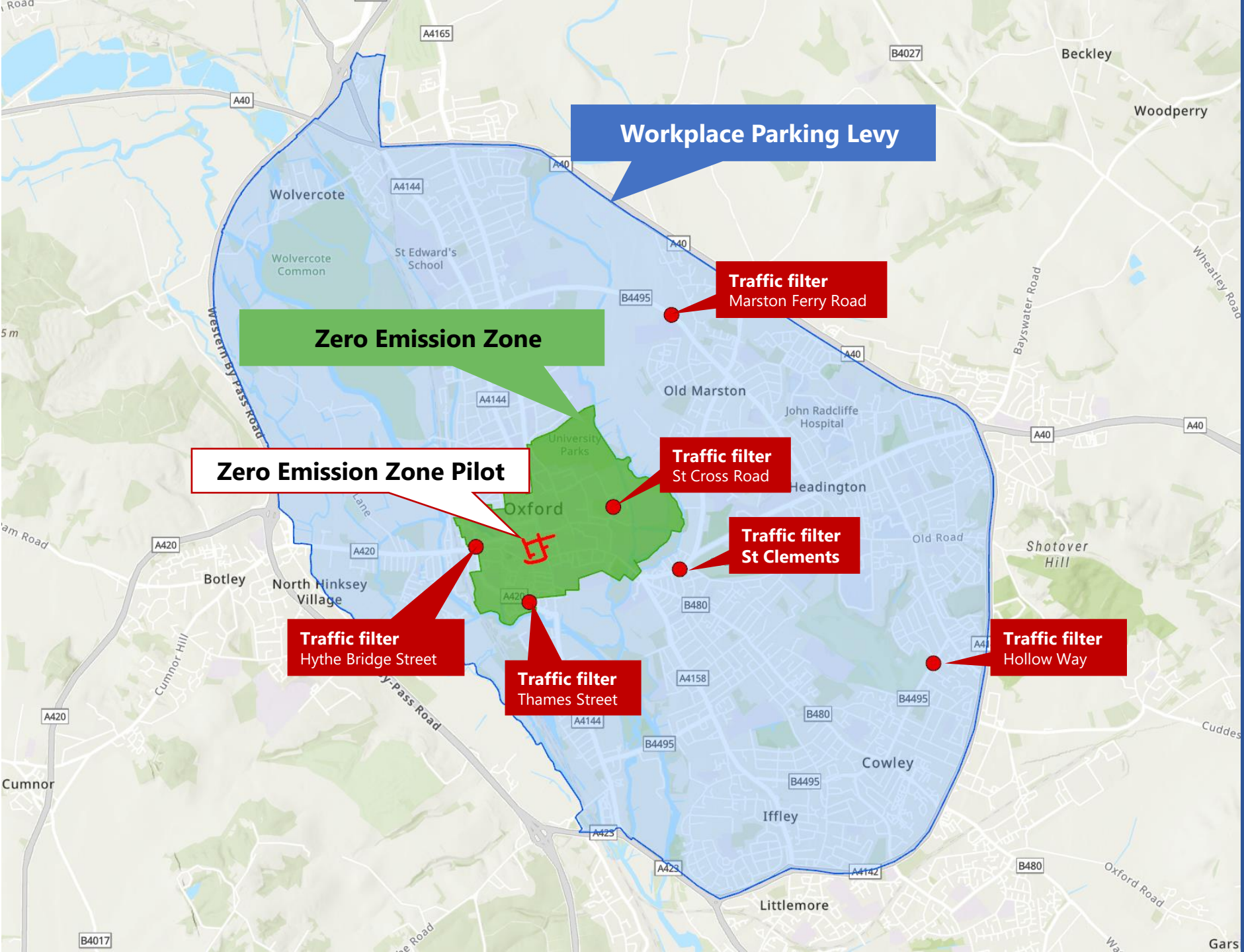


Workplace parking levy: the proposal is to extend the Workplace Parking Levy (WPL) to cover employers across the city.

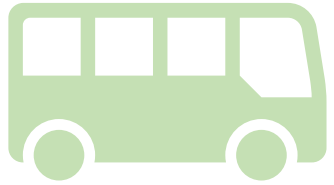


Zero emission zone (ZEZ): the proposal is to extend the ZEZ from the current pilot area to the entire city centre, as proposed in previous consultations. The ZEZ boundary has been slightly enlarged to ensure all properties whose only vehicular access is from streets in the ZEZ are officially recognised as part of the ZEZ. This will ensure they are eligible for any business and resident discounts.

Current proposals



Benefits



- Tackles post-COVID decline in bus network
- Faster and more reliable buses
- New and improved bus routes
- Enables investment in zero emission buses (e.g. ZEBRA)
- **Mode shift: car → bus**



- Enables reallocation of road space from motor vehicles to cyclists & pedestrians
- Reduced traffic flows = safer, more comfortable roads for cyclists & pedestrians
- **Mode shift: car → cycle & walk**



- Reduces transport emissions, improving local air quality and tackling climate change
- Reduces traffic noise



- Creates opportunities for pedestrianisation and improving public spaces



- Generates locally-controlled income, for local transport priorities

Complementary schemes

Controlled parking zones

Public parking charges

Mobility hubs

Quickways, quietways & cycle parking

School streets

Bus service improvement plan schemes

Rail schemes

Public realm schemes – e.g. Broad Street

Low traffic neighbourhoods

Major schemes

e.g. A40, A44, Botley Road

E-scooters

New & improved bus routes

Zero Emission Buses Regional Areas (ZEBRA) scheme

Travel planning

20 mph limits

Public transport interchanges

EV charging infrastructure

Next Steps

Activity	Date
Engagement with businesses and other organisations	Spring 2022
Technical work	Ongoing > Summer 2022
Public consultation	Summer 2022
Cabinet decision	Autumn/winter 2022

Key dates

Milestone	Date
Zero emission zone pilot starts	28 February 2022
City & county decision on implementation of core schemes	Autumn 2022
Traffic filters start	Summer 2023
Zero emission zone starts	Summer/autumn 2023
Workplace parking levy Secretary of State decision	Summer 2023
Workplace parking levy starts	Spring 2024
Complementary schemes implemented	Ongoing throughout

Questions