TfL's approach to transportation, air pollution & climate change

Transport is a significant cause of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. What can transport and city authorities do about it? To what extent can these challenges be resolved by cleaner fuels? Is behaviour change needed to achieve environmental aims?

Transport for London is the integrated transport authority responsible for planning and delivering mobility in London. Over the last 20 years, TfL has led the world in transport policy and practice. One of these has been the focus on air pollution with a Low Emission Zone launched in 2009, an Ultra Low Emission Zone launched in 2019 and its expansion to Inner London in 2021.

Air pollution poses a continuing challenge but the broader challenge of getting to net zero is now upon us. What is TfL doing about this? What should it do? What role can road pricing and other policies play in this?

Speaker:
Shashi Verma is the Director of Strategy and Chief Technology Officer at TfL. He joined TfL in September 2002. Shashi has overall responsibility for TfL’s corporate strategy. The new role of CTO is aimed at bringing a new approach to the development, deployment, and operation of technology across TfL. Since its creation in 2016, the new role has already delivered significant improvements in TfL’s technology delivery and reduced costs. Since 2006, Shashi has been responsible for the operation of TfL's revenue collection system, including the Oyster card, the largest smartcard based ticketing system in the world; and advising the Mayor of London on fares and ticketing policy. In 2011, he added responsibility for integrating all customer facing activities and for running TfL's customer service operations. Shashi has led the development of contactless payment since 2007 and implemented this successfully on TfL’s system starting in 2012. In the process, he has developed capability for technology development and globally leading innovation.