

# LONDON TRAVELWATCH

If London buses can travel just 1mph faster than they do today, it could potentially save Transport for London (TfL) between £100m and £200m and £200m per year. It's never been more important to #FreeTheBus

## How to make buses better?

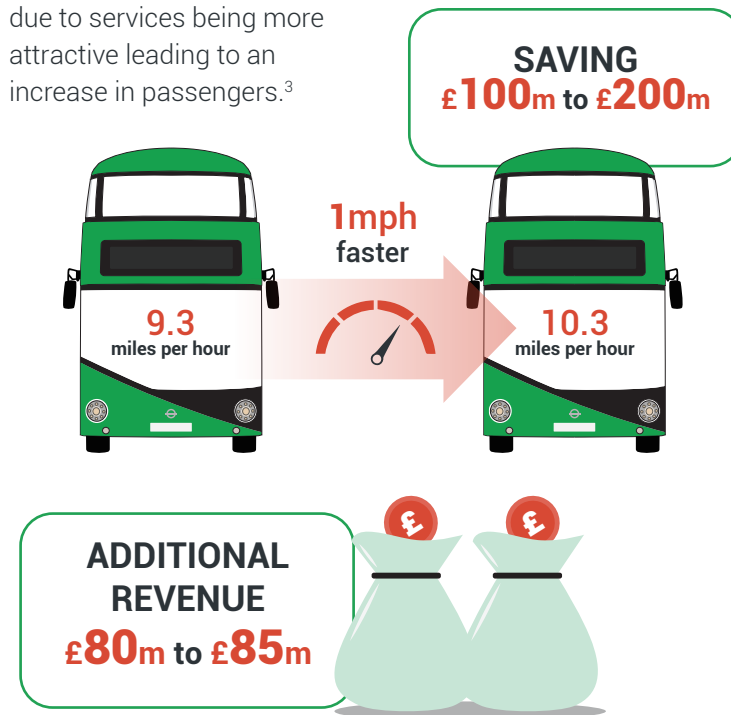
In the 12 months before the pandemic hit, average bus speeds were only 9.3 miles per hour, the third successive year in which speeds were that low.<sup>1</sup>

If the bus is given priority on our roads, journey times will get shorter, and more people will use them. This would mean TfL will be able to run fewer vehicles on bus routes and **save money**.



TfL have told us that when the speed of buses is improved, routes can be completed more quickly, reducing the number of vehicles needed in service.

This can have a positive cost implication and as an approximate indicator, if buses travel 1mph faster you can potentially save between **£100m and £200m** per year as well as generate additional revenue of **£80-£85m<sup>2</sup>** due to services being more attractive leading to an increase in passengers.<sup>3</sup>



1. Transport for London, Travel in London Report 13.

2. Based on formulas of speed operating cost elasticity and service elasticity. Professor David Begg. The impact of congestion on bus passengers.

3. Savings and revenue will vary depending on the circumstances such as location and existing demand on route.

## Case study

At the height of the pandemic last Autumn, bus speeds in central London increased by approximately 20% resulting in 110 vehicles being removed from those routes. In financial terms that would have equated to an approximate annual saving of **£20m**.



#FREE TheBus