# A better suggestion to beat congestion

The Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) will put hundreds of millions of pounds of profit - in others words our money - into the pockets of contractors and the private bus operators. Yet it will do little to help the travelling public, many of whom have little or no choice about when or how to travel to work.

Privatisation and deregulation have wrecked our transport system, yet the TIF will do nothing about these. Nor will the TIF do anything to reduce the exorbitant ticket prices on buses & trams including the outrageous 70p 'concessionary' fare for children.

Central to the TIF, but not even mentioned in the referendum question, is the introduction of a congestion charge. This charge is nothing but a tax on working people - an extra tax at a time when we can ill afford it, as food and fuel prices are rising, wages are stagnant and jobs are at risk. What's more the congestion charge will do little to reduce congestion and even less to reduce carbon emissions (the advocates of the charge only anticipate a 6% reduction in carbon emissions as a result of the charge.)

**Just the infrastructure to collect the charge will cost over £300m - a ridiculous waste of money.**

A far better way to reduce congestion would be to offer drivers a real alternative to the motor car. This is why Respect demands as an alternative to this half-baked policy a genuinely improved public transport system that is:

✸ **Massively expanded;**

✸ **Fully integrated;**

✸ **Publicly owned** and

✸ **Free at the point of use.**

## RESPECT

Visit www.gmrespect.org.uk for more information about Respect including our detailed alternative to the TIF plans. You can also join online for just £10.

### CAMPAIGN FOR FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Respect fully supports the **Campaign for Free Public Transport**. Join the Rally for Free Public Transport at **5pm** on Tuesday **2nd December** in **Piccadilly Gardens.**
www.freepublictransport.org.uk