NEWSPAPER YOU CAN TRUST

e looms for old vehicles

e Metropolitan Police Bureau

Gen Adul said: "Many older ill often break down on roads ir poor condition. This causes agestion.

whers want to continue using es, they will be charged higher in fees."

he hoped that those who continue running older lkeep them in good condition they run well and are safe to

outy metropolitan police chief wfees would not apply outside

ng to the Department of Land , 8.4 million vehicles were in Bangkok from 1999 to Seps year. Of this figure, 5.8 miles were more than 10 years old when they were registered.

Pol Maj Gen Adul did not say when the proposed new registration fees would come into effect.

akok Host

He said police also intend to immediately remove illegally parked vehicles during rush hours or those in the path of royal motorcades.

Currently, wheel clamps are placed on illegally parked vehicles, but Pol Maj Gen Adul said removing them with tow trucks would be a better measure.

Clamped vehicles worsen congestion as motorists have to travel to police stations to pay fines before the vehicles can be freed, he said.

Pol Maj Gen Adul said police are already authorised under sections 57 and 59 of the Traffic Act to tow away illegally parked vehicles, but the measure is not currently enforced.

Pol Maj Gen Adul said the tow-truck

measure would come into practice early next month, pending support from the Ministry of Transport and other state agencies.

Owners of vehicles which are towed away will be fined 500 baht for violating the parking ban, 500 baht for the removal fee and 200 baht for the daily care of towed vehicles, he said.

The Metropolitan Police Bureau plans a raft of projects to relieve traffic congestion in Bangkok.

As well as the hike in registration fees for older vehicles and the removal of illegally parked vehicles, city police propose to launch a campaign against drink-driving, and better manage traffic in flooded areas and around sites staging major events such as festivals.

They also plan to introduce an electronic fine system for traffic law violations, and set up a Bangkok traffic court. Other proposals include improving traffic control centres and staggering school and office hours, and implementing traffic relief measures on 10 heavily congested roads.

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The roads are Lat Phrao, Rama IV, Sukhumvit, Ratchadaphisek, Ramkhamhaeng, Phahon Yothin, Sathon Nua, Ratchadamnoen Klang, Phetchaburi and Vibhavadi Rangsit.

Metropolitan police commissioner Kamronwit Thoopkrajang has also threatened to punish traffic superintendents and deputies if they fail to manage traffic flow in congested areas.

Meanwhile, Ombudsman Sriracha Charoenpanich, who follows measures dealing with traffic problems, suggested police fine car owners 100 baht for each minute their cars have caused a traffic jam either by breaking down or being involved in an accident.

POLITICS Banharn goes lukewarm on reform push PRADIT RUANGDIT

Chartthaipattana Party chief adviser Banharn Silpa-archa says he has given up trying to convincing senior figures to join the government's political reform council for the time being.

"No *phuyai* [senior figures] agreed to participate in the reform council when I met them,"said Mr Banharn, who is also a former prime minister.

Mr Banharn yesterday said he was not the chairman of the council. He was just the coordinator and was ready to talk with all parties in the future.





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