The Stockholm trials start on 22 August. And 3 January.

On 2 June 2003, the Stockholm City Council adopted a majority proposal to conduct congestion charges trials. The formal decision on implementation was made through the Riksdag (Swedish Parliament) passing the Congestion Charges Act on 16 June 2004. The trials start on 22 August 2005 with extended public transport. On 3 January 2006 the congestion charges start. The trials will be concluded by 31 July 2006. A referendum on the permanent implementation of congestion charges will be held in conjunction with the general election on 17 September 2006.
The City of Stockholm has set up an implementation office, the Congestion Charges Secretariat, whose mandate is to plan, implement and evaluate the congestion charges trials in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders. Up-to-date information on the trial is available at www.stockholmsforsoket.se. You can also call 0771-29 29 29 (Int. +46 771 29 29 29).

Purpose of the Stockholm trials
The primary objectives of the trials are to reduce congestion, increase accessibility and improve the environment. The purpose of the (full-scale) trials is to test whether the efficiency of the traffic system can be enhanced by congestion charges.

Secondary objectives of the trials
• Reduce traffic volumes on the busiest roads by 10-15%
• Improve the flow of traffic on streets and roads
• Reduce emissions of pollutants harmful to human health and of carbon dioxide
• Improve the urban environment as perceived by Stockholm residents
• Provide more resources for public transport

Timetable for the trials
Trials start on 22 August 2005 with extended public transport. On 3 January 2006 the congestion charges start. The trials will be concluded by 31 July 2006. It will be evaluated continuously from a number of different perspectives. This evaluation will be summarised in a report in early summer 2006. A referendum on the permanent implementation of congestion charges will be held in conjunction with the general election on 17 September 2006.

All costs payed by the government
All costs are payed by the national government. The budget for the trials is SEK 3.3 billion.

Extended public transport
Public transport will be extended with 197 new buses and 16 new buslines. This will provide an effective and fast alternative for travelling at peak hours from the municipalities surrounding Stockholm into the inner city. Where possible present bus-, underground- and commuter train lines will be reinforced with additional departures.

More park-and-ride facilities
To facilitate travelling a large number of new park-and-ride facilities will be built in the region. The present park-and-ride facilities will be made more attractive.

Congestion charges system
The system will have a single zone boundary encircling the inner city of Stockholm. Charges will be made for passage into and out of the inner city on weekdays from 06.30 to 18.29, with higher charges during peak periods. The maximum charge is SEK 60 per day and vehicle.

Unimpeded traffic flow
The advanced payment technology used will not impede the throughput of traffic at the charging points. Registration and payment will be implemented electronically without affecting the flow of traffic.

Exemptions for special road user groups
The following road user groups are exempt from congestion charges:
• Emergency vehicles
• Vehicles registered abroad
• Diplomat vehicles
• Military vehicles
• Buses with a total weight of at least 14 tonnes
• Eco-friendly vehicles (electric, ethanol, biogas)
• Taxis
• Disability and social services, etc. transportation service vehicles
• Motorcycles
• Holders of disabled person's parking permits may apply for exemption for one vehicle

Journeys to and from Lidingö
Journeys between Lidingö and the rest of Stockholm County are exempted, provided the vehicle passes two separate charging points, of which one includes one of the charging points at Ropsten, and the time between the passages does not exceed 30 minutes.

Charges and times
The congestion charges will apply on weekdays from 06.30 to 18.29. There are no charges on evenings, nights, Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays and the day before a public holiday.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Charge</th>
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<tr>
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<td>07.00-07.29</td>
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<tr>
<td>07.30-08.29</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Maximum charge SEK 60 per day and vehicle

Essingeleden not part of the trials
Charges will not be imposed for the Essingeleden ring road during the trials.