PROBLEMS CAUSED BY UNSUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

- **Congestion.** Some cities located in monsoon areas suffer from increased traffic congestion due to flooding the streets at ground level. Surfaces of streets also are negatively affected.

- **Air pollution.** Fumes emitted from vehicle engines damage the quality of the air in the city, also contributing to the greenhouse effect (large amount of CO\textsubscript{2} is released to the atmosphere).

- **Accidents.** In cities where strict speed regulations and promotion of safe driving is not present, road death rates are higher. High incidence of car accidents puts a pressure on local hospitals and worsens the general health of the community.

- **Waste of time and fuel.** Businesses can lose thousands of pounds weekly at the expense of traffic congestion and delivery vehicles being stuck on the roads.

ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS // PUBLIC TRANSPORT

- Rail networks are much needed in large urban areas such as Bangkok. They have a high passenger capacity and enable quick transport around the city. Underground railways are a popular option in cities where space is in short supply and they can account for the majority of the train routes close to the town centre. For example, 45% of London’s rapid transit system is underground, in tunnels.

- The creation of bus lanes with priority at junctions is an effective way of encouraging public transport use. This is an example of a road scheme approach to dealing with traffic problems.

- Ferries bring congestion relief as they use waterways, however they have a relatively low passenger capacity and may be slower than above ground transport services. Notable cities operating ‘water taxis’ are: London, Bristol, Copenhagen, New York, and Bangkok.

- Bicycle hire schemes are becoming more and more popular in cities. Councils also invest in cycle lanes to encourage the use of bikes. This strategy has been exceptionally effective in Copenhagen – up to 58% of journeys within the city now are made by bike.

However, the ultimate goal in sustainable transport is to organise cities so that most people can get to their destination by walking or cycling. To achieve this, some towns would have to be entirely re-planned. Some councils use pedestrianisation (prohibiting vehicle use in particular areas) and encourage pedestrian movement by improving walking surfaces, reducing the number of obstacles, and increasing safety on roads by traffic lights and fenced pavements.

REDUCING PRIVATE VEHICLE JOURNEYS

- The Congestion Charge (London, 2007)

- Restricted access for cars, for example, pedestrianisation of large areas of the town centre.

- Expensive car parks.

- Strict on-street parking controls and expensive parking tickets.

Case study – The congestion charge, London since 2007