**Causes of Traffic Congestion in Glasgow**

There are few bridges over the River Clyde in which large numbers of vehicles are funnelled over at the same time. This again causes high levels of congestion.25% of the people who work in the city do not live there. As a commuter centre the city is always heavily congested at morning and evening rush hours. There are more cars on the road today than ever before as people use them over public transport as it is more convenient for them. The Grid Iron Street pattern that the CBD follows causes problems as it was designed before the existence of cars. The narrow streets are made worse by people parking on them (especially on both sides of the roads).

**Problems Caused by an Increase of Traffic in the CBD.**

There are many problems caused by an increased amount of traffic in the CBD. The vibrations from traffic can damage buildings. The more traffic there is on the road the more likely the chance of an accident happening. In terms of environmental problems there is an increase in the amount of pollution from vehicle exhausts as well as an increase in noise from traffic. The main problem facing commuters is the increase in journey time if they are trying to get to their work. Many of these problems added together can cause road rage amongst drivers.

**Solutions to Traffic Congestion**

1. Improvements to Public Transport – making sure that rail and bus links are easily accessible and are maintained to reasonable standards will encourage people to use public transport.
2. Construction of New Roads – Building new wider roads with more lanes to allow more traffic to be on the roads at the one time and still moving.
3. Improving Traffic Flow in the CBD – being more stringent on parking by having wardens deterring people form parking on the side of the street and instead parking in newly built multi storey car parks. The introduction of bus lanes so that traffic does not need to stop every time a bus does.

**Shopping Centres in the Central Business District**

There are many benefits to shopping in centres rather than shopping in the open air. It was for this reason that there were several centres opened in the city centre of Glasgow that cater for a range of different needs and wants. Four examples of centres include; Buchanan Galleries, St Enoch Centre, Princes Square and the Italian Centre. They allow shoppers to be sheltered from the elements and tend to have food courts or restaurants within them. This means that evthing is in the one place and shopper do not need to leave the centre at all.

**Out of Town Shopping Centres**

Over the last 40 years out of town shopping centres have been built; these include Silverburn and East Kilbride. They have many benefits including; easy access from main roads, free parking in abundance, later opening hours, other leisure facilities and the land is cheaper with room for expansion. However there are some drawbacks with these centres; they are difficult to get to without your own vehicle and they take custom away from the CBD. This has caused Glasgow City Council to stop approving planning permission for new centres unless they are situated in the CBD.

**Encouraging Shoppers to Shop in the CBD**

Three examples of what Glasgow City Council have done doing to attract people to the CBD are; making main shopping streets pedestrianised, maintaining the centres in the CBD and having high order shopping areas such as Princes Square that offer unique shopping experiences.