



Magical taxi tour makes children's dreams come true

More than 100 licensed London taxis delivered the trip of a lifetime when they took 200 sick and terminally ill children on a visit to Disneyland Paris.

Taxi drivers collected the children and their carers from home or hospital on 17 October for the 15th annual Children's Magical Taxi Tour, organised by the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers.

The black cabs first took them to a big send-off at Canary Wharf. There, the Lord Mayor of the City of London, Alderman David Lewis, officially launched the convoy, which also included Metropolitan Police escorts, London Ambulance NHS Trust vehicles and AA breakdown trucks.

Throughout the year, fundraising events took place to help finance the event, with each driver raising around £1,000 to cover the cost of hotels, fuel, food and admission charges. TfL also provided facilities so the taxis could be inspected ahead of the long drive.

Mayor Boris Johnson, said: 'Yet again I find myself as proud as punch of the Capital's cabbies. Sending this armada of cabs and their precious cargo all the way to Paris and the Magic Kingdom is a staggering gesture of kindness.'

Fast fact

To date, 1,500 taxis have taken almost 3,000 children on the annual trip. Some drivers have been involved since 1994, driving a total of 9,000 unpaid miles.

Putting the brakes on the school run



New TfL figures show that, across the Capital, more than three million fewer car journeys are now made on the school run every year.

Since 2005, schools in London with travel plans have seen the number of car journeys fall by 6.4 per cent – that's 3.3 million annually, or nearly 12 million fewer car kilometres a year.

A travel plan provides the school with practical advice and encourages pupils and parents to walk, cycle or use more sustainable methods of transport. They are now in place at more than 70 per cent of London's schools.

Transport for London news

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Visit TfL's website at tfl.gov.uk



Mayor sets out the 'Way to Go!'

Mayor of London Boris Johnson has launched 'Way to Go!', his vision of transport in the Capital.

The document recognises the effects that public transport can have on people's quality of life and outlines how the Mayor intends to improve the network for all Londoners.

It states that, despite achievements such as the expansion of the bus fleet, rising cycling numbers and popular concessionary travel schemes, huge transport challenges still remain. However, measures to address these include:

- Infrastructure investments such as Crossrail, the

huge programme of Tube improvements and air-conditioned trains on several lines

- On-going development of the London Overground network and the roll-out of Oyster across private rail franchises
- Continued investment to make the network safer
- Smoothing traffic flow through rephasing traffic lights, opening bus lanes to motorbikes and declaring 'war on roadworks'
- A central London bike hire scheme, cycle hubs in the outer boroughs and the introduction of special dedicated cycling routes into central London

- A fair approach to all road users
- Working more closely with outer London boroughs
- A review of bus services and the introduction of a new 21st century Routemaster

The Mayor said: 'If you start the day crammed into a Tube carriage with a stranger's armpit in your face, chances are it is going to get you off to a bad start. If you have to squeeze your way on to your evening bus through a crowd of swearing, fighting children, chances are you will take that stress into your evening.'

'I want to improve Londoners' quality of life and we will be investing billions in achieving this through better transport.'

For more information

Further details are available from: Group Government & Stakeholder Relations, Transport for London, Windsor House, 42-50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0TL. Telephone: 020 7126 4126, email: gsr@tfl.gov.uk

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TfL announces launch of motorcycle bus lane trial

Motorcycles will be allowed to use the majority of red route bus lanes from 5 January 2009.



They will be able to share the lanes with buses, cyclists and licensed black cabs on a trial

basis for 18 months. However, the change will only apply to lanes that operate with the flow of traffic - unauthorised entry to a bus lane could result in a Penalty Charge Notice of £120.

More information about the bus lanes affected can be found at tfl.gov.uk/motorcyclesinbuslanes

Transport for London (TfL) will be accepting formal representations from the public between 5 January and 5 July 2009 and further details can also be found on the website. Before then, comments can be emailed to londonstreets@tfl.gov.uk

Plan sets out a decade of investment



TfL has published its latest Business Plan outlining investment priorities up to 2017/18.

The document illustrates how, over the next 10 years, TfL will deliver the biggest expansion of the Capital's transport since World War II.

Major initiatives include the delivery of Crossrail, London Underground (LU) line upgrades, expansion of London Overground and the bus network, plus improvements to the Docklands Light Railway (DLR). For more, go to tfl.gov.uk/businessplan

The TfL Annual report for 2007/08 has also been published. To find out more go to tfl.gov.uk/annualreport

Live CCTV pilot to boost bus safety



Mayor Boris Johnson is taking further steps to make the Capital's buses safer with a six-month trial of live CCTV on a north London route.

Twenty-one double-deckers have been fitted with technology that will allow pictures to be beamed live to CentreComm,

the operations centre shared by London Buses and officers from the Metropolitan Police Transport Operational Command Unit.

When bus drivers on the route make a radio call to Centrecomm, operators can use the new technology to access real-time camera images and direct police officers to the

vehicle if necessary. The pictures are beamed via secure and encrypted mobile networks.

The Mayor said: 'If this trial is successful then we will consider rolling out the system on other routes as part of our campaign to stamp out the casual disorder that led to a culture of fear on public transport.'

Fast fact

There are 60,000 CCTV cameras operating on London's fleet of more than 8,000 buses. Every bus already has a CCTV system that records still images, which can be downloaded on request. This has proved an invaluable policing tool and has led to a tripling of the arrest rate for criminal damage on buses in the Capital.

Cycle campaign moves up a gear



Cinema-goers across the Capital are being reminded to watch out for cyclists in TfL's latest safety campaign, which can now be seen on the big screen.

Adverts carrying the stark message 'It's easy to miss what you're not looking for. Look out for cyclists', will be screened before some of autumn's big cinema releases including the latest Bond movie, Quantum of Solace.

The campaign is part of a major push to reduce accidents following a number of recent cycling fatalities in London.

Among the raft of initiatives are adverts in the press, an online safety campaign and thousands of free Fresnel safety lenses, which will be provided to companies operating goods vehicles in London. The lenses stick to the passenger side-window of the lorry, improving the driver's vision of cyclists passing by the nearside of the vehicle.

TfL gets tough on fare dodgers

The penalty fare on buses, the Tube, DLR and London Overground is going up from 11 January 2009, TfL has announced.

The penalty will rise from £20 to £50 as an increased deterrent to combat fare evasion. The scheme will also include the introduction of an incentive to encourage prompt payment, which will see the penalty fare reduced to £25 if it is paid within 21 days.

Steve Burton, TfL's Director of Community Safety, Enforcement and Policing, said: 'We know that our honest, fare paying passengers feel angry when they see others not paying for their journey and this should reassure them that we are tackling this issue head on.'

Police teams rolled-out after crime-cutting pilot



New transport policing teams will be introduced at 30 locations across the Capital from January.

The announcement follows the success of three pilot teams launched by the Mayor in May. Since their introduction in West

Croydon, Wood Green, and Canning Town, some crimes have been cut by more than a third.

The teams have reduced robberies by almost 38 per cent and overall crime by more than 16 per cent. In addition, violent crime has fallen by more than five per cent.

Transport transformation delivered for west London

The new Westfield London shopping centre



Now open for business



The Westfield London site spans nine postcodes and is the largest city-centre shopping mall in Europe.

It was opened on 30 October by Mayor Boris Johnson, who was joined by guests including LU Managing Director, Tim O'Toole.

The Mayor said: 'This huge investment in infrastructure will help to boost the London economy and will make life better for the people of west London, who will see the real benefits of an unprecedented improvement in public transport.'

Services in White City and Shepherd's Bush have been revitalised thanks to a multi-million pound partnership between TfL and developers Westfield.

The new facilities, fully supported by the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, will not only provide world-class transport links for the new Westfield London retail development, they will also transform public transport for people living and working in the west of the Capital.

'The completion of these world-class transport links in the borough makes it one of the best connected in London, which is great news for local people and businesses.'

Tim O'Toole,
Managing Director, LU

Westfield has invested £170m towards transport projects in the area, with TfL adding a further £30m. There are three new stations, a remodelled station, enhanced accessibility features and a series of improvements for walkers and cyclists.

The fully accessible Shepherd's Bush Overground station is served by London Overground and Southern. Trains run direct to Willesden Junction, Clapham Junction and Watford Junction, linking with other London Overground and National Rail services. Situated opposite Shepherd's Bush Tube station, it is also served by bus routes which stop outside.

The new Wood Lane Tube station on the Hammersmith & City line is the first to be built on an existing line for more than 70 years. Also fully accessible, it creates an interchange with White City station on the Central line, which is only 200 metres away.



Situated next door, the White City bus station will open in the run-up to Christmas. It will eventually be served by 14 bus routes with 135 buses an hour using the station at peak times.

Another benefit for passengers is the Shepherd's Bush Underground station, which reopened in October after an eight-month remodelling to increase capacity. It also provides new escalators; lighter, brighter

platform areas; and improved customer information and Help points.

Shepherd's Bush Tube station on the Hammersmith and City line has been renamed Shepherd's Bush Market.

The final pieces of the jigsaw come in the shape of improvements for cyclists, pedestrians and mobility-impaired people. These include:

- Four new cycle routes
- A total of 570 additional cycle spaces with secure parking facilities at all the stations in Wood Lane and Shepherd's Bush
- New pedestrian crossings across Wood Lane, Uxbridge Road and the southern end of the A3220
- A new step-free pedestrian route across the A3220 to the Wood Lane and White City stations
- Widened footpaths

- Bays for taxis and mobility-impaired passengers in the centre of Westfield London, at the end of Wood Lane and between the two new Shepherd's Bush stations

Visit tfl.gov.uk/whitecity

Fast fact

It is predicted that as many as 6,665 people will use the new Wood Lane station between noon and 3pm on Saturdays.

News in brief

Recognition for Langdon Park

Langdon Park DLR station has scooped a major honour by winning the British Construction Industry award for regeneration. It recognises the significant contribution the station has made to helping improve the local area since it opened in December 2007.



Woolwich boost

Woolwich town centre has been given a £3.2m boost.

The improvement project has been managed by TfL, Greenwich Council and the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The first phase of the scheme has included the installation of a new 'super crossing' at Plumstead Road, linking Royal Arsenal with the town centre; more than 100 new trees; and high-quality, sensitively-designed street furniture. Phase two, which has just started, will continue until the spring of 2009.

Progress on track for Crossrail

Crossrail, the largest addition to the transport network in London and the South East for 50 years, is making good progress.

Following Parliament's decision in July to grant the powers to build the railway, the scheme is moving forward in a number of key areas. A new Crossrail Board has been appointed and the process has begun for the recruitment of a new Chair and Chief Executive for Cross London Rail Links (CLRL), the company delivering the scheme for TfL and the Department for Transport. Delivery and programme partners to support CLRL have been shortlisted, with appointments due at the end of this year or early 2009. Agreements are being signed between Government, TfL and



other parties to underpin the delivery, funding and governance of the scheme.

Work is also continuing on the ground. Small trenches are being dug at Bond Street, Tottenham Court Road and Paddington to identify whether below-ground services – for instance, pipes and cables – match information provided by utility companies and other service providers.

Compulsory purchase order notifications have been issued on properties at Tottenham Court Road. This is necessary for the

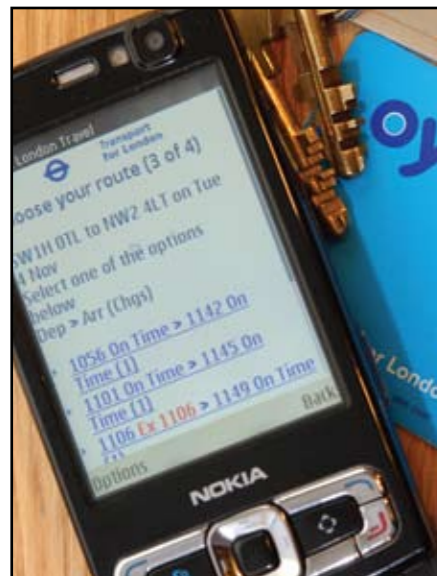
main works, which get underway at this station in early 2009.

Throughout next year, detailed design and preliminary works will take place along the route in time for main construction beginning in 2010.

Fast fact

Crossrail is essential to provide congestion relief on Tube and rail services as well as maintain jobs and investment in the Capital and UK. It will increase the public transport network capacity in London by 10 per cent.

Christmas closure planned for Jubilee line upgrade



Remember to check before travelling this Christmas

Work is intensifying on the massive project to upgrade the Jubilee line, due for completion by December 2009.

As a result, the line will be closed between 25 and 28 December to allow for, among other things, testing of new signalling. In addition, there will be no service on the Metropolitan line on 26 December, or from Aldgate to Northwood and Rayners Lane on 27 and 28 December. This is to allow for signalling, station and track works.

Replacement bus services will operate during these closures.

Further details – and full seasonal travel information – will be available nearer the time, but passengers are advised to check before they travel, via the following options:

- **The TfL website:** tfl.gov.uk/tube
- **The London Travel Information 24-hour telephone helpline:** 020 7222 1234
- **BBC Ceefax, page 436, or ITV's Teletext, page 164**

Passengers campaign for better transport behaviour

TfL has launched a new social networking site giving Londoners the chance to campaign for better behaviour on the Capital's transport systems.

The 'Together for London' site has been backed by community groups across the city.

It provides a forum for people to share their thoughts on everything from cyclists ignoring red lights to eating smelly food on the Tube. They can join discussions, contribute to transport-related polls and even launch their own personalised campaign.

'London Youth wholeheartedly supports Together for London. The social networking site is a forum which allows young people to make their voices heard on issues relating to considerate behaviour on public transport.'

Esther Thompson,
Head of Training London Youth

The website marks the latest phase of TfL's Considerate Travel initiative, which encourages all Londoners to think about others when using public transport.

Posters on buses and at Tube stations feature five characters making pledges ranging from 'I will offer my seat' and 'I will not play my music out loud' to 'I will try to remember what it is like to be 14 again'.

'People from all walks of life meet every day on public transport and what's acceptable behaviour to some may irritate or make others feel uncomfortable. This campaign is not about crime, but about inconsiderate behaviour, which fuels the disproportionate fear of crime on and around public transport in London.'

Peter Henty, Transport Commissioner, TfL

Anyone registering on the new site can create their own personalised version of the characters, known as 'Little Londoners', to help convey their message. An interactive online shop means they can also use their Little Londoner and campaign slogans to customise bags, t-shirts, hoodies, mugs and mousemats.

TfL hopes that by raising awareness of behaviour that



annoys other passengers, and encouraging people to think about their own actions, the website will help to improve travelling around the Capital for everyone.

For further details and to register, visit the site at www.togetherforlondon.org

'With the many opportunities the internet offers, many older people are getting connected. The launch of Transport for London's social networking site 'Together for London' will give passengers of all ages one way of voicing their experiences of how inconsiderate behaviour has affected their journeys in London without fear of consequences.'

Samantha Mauger, Chief Executive of Age Concern London

Oyster First for passengers

Thousands of passengers can now use Oyster pay as you go at all stations served by First Great Western in London.

TfL is investing £40m in new Oyster equipment across the rail network and is working with train operating companies to make it

available to everyone throughout the city.

Oyster has been a huge success and accounts for more than three-quarters of daily Tube and bus journeys in the Capital. It is available online at tfl.gov.uk, over the phone via 0845 330 9876 or at Travel Information Centres across London.

