

More ways to check before you travel



New features on Tfl's website have made it even easier to find the latest travel and Tube information.

A range of tools, brought together on one page, includes:

- Options to sign-up for email alerts about weekend closures

- Upgrade information for each Tube line
- Widgets that allow live travel information to be added to websites, including iGoogle and blogs
- A tool that enables passengers to see, on any one day, planned works across the network

The changes, part of TfL's Investment Programme, give Londoners the ability to plan their journey in advance or on the go. **Find out more at tfl.gov.uk/traveltools**

Compact award honours Tfl youth advisory forum

TfL has been recognised for its information management (IM) work with the Capital's youth at the first London Regional Compact Awards.

The awards, hosted by the Greater London Authority, celebrate strong working relationships between the voluntary and public sector.

TfL's honour recognises an IM-focused youth advisory forum which TfL organised in July 2008.

As part of the forum, young people from across the Capital were able to give their perspectives on climate change, antisocial behaviour, social networking and the application of technology within TfL. They were also given the chance to experience a work-like environment.

The Compact is an agreement between regional and central Government, and the voluntary and community sector, to work together to bring greater benefits to local communities.

Wheels turn on hire scheme

London looks set to welcome a cycle hire scheme by May 2010, under new plans announced by the Mayor and TfL.

A feasibility study has outlined intentions for a scheme covering nine Zone 1 boroughs.

People will be able to pick up and drop off hire bikes at 400 locations across the boroughs, plus several Royal Parks.

Fast fact

An initial 6,000 hire bikes are expected to generate around 40,000 extra daily cycle trips in central London.

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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Transport for London news

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Visit TfL's website at tfl.gov.uk

New bus for London moves a step closer



Aston Martin and Foster + Partners



Capoco Design Ltd

Mayor of London Boris Johnson has unveiled the winning designs in the New Bus for London competition.

He joined Transport Commissioner Peter Hendy to outline the next steps in delivering a new bus for 21st Century London, based on the iconic Routemaster.

Overall, 700 entries were received from professionals and non-professionals of all ages. The judges were so impressed with the ideas submitted in the 'whole bus design' category that a joint first prize was awarded to Capoco Design Ltd and a collaborative entry

from Aston Martin and Foster + Partners.

The Mayor said: 'We have had a phenomenal response, with ideas submitted from around the globe, and we now have, in our joint winners, two stunning designs that allow us to go forward and produce a truly iconic bus fit for 21st Century London.'

The competition featured a 'design' category for professional-standard entries, with a class for 'whole-bus' submissions and another for single concepts or features. The two first prize winners received £25,000 each, and two runners-up won £10,000 each. There was also a range of merit awards.

A second 'imagine' category encouraged entrants of all ages to unleash their creativity. It was split into age groups varying from under-11s to over-18s, with a range of prizes available.

The next step in delivering the new bus is to pass the winning ideas to manufacturers to develop into a final proposed design. Transport for London (TfL) expects to award a contract towards the end of next year, after a competitive tendering process. The first new vehicles will be seen on the streets of the Capital in 2011.

For more information, go to tfl.gov.uk/newbusforlondon

Inside • Record funding package for boroughs • New cycle hire scheme • Plans to get London walking



Additional funds announced for London Overground



TfL has welcomed an additional £54m in Government funding to upgrade a section of the London Overground network.

Already, TfL is investing £326m in upgrading London Overground infrastructure and part of this work will result in four tracks in the Caledonian Road area.

This will allow eight passenger trains to run per hour in the peak, and six during off-peak hours, between Stratford and Camden Road stations, by 2011.

The additional funding, announced in December by Transport Secretary Geoff Hoon, will enable the current two tracks to be increased to four in the Camden area after 2012.



TfL awards record spend to London boroughs

London's boroughs will benefit from the largest ever TfL funding package to deliver local transport improvements in the Capital.

The £168.3m funding for 2009/10, which is up from £161m last year, will help the boroughs to cut road deaths, improve cycling facilities, tackle the school run and carry out main road maintenance. For the first time, it also includes an additional £100,000 for each borough to spend as they want on local transport.

Funding for hundreds of local schemes is allocated each year by TfL in response to applications, called Local Implementation Plans, from each borough. **For more details, visit tfl.gov.uk/localimplementationplans**

New fares are now in force

A new package of fares was introduced across London's transport network on 2 January.

The fares package benefits older passengers, who will be able to use their Freedom Passes 24-hours-a-day, every day. There is also a new half-price travel scheme for those on income support. In addition, a reduced off-peak fare has been introduced on the Tube, from 09:30 to 16:00, Monday to Friday. **For full details go to tfl.gov.uk/tickets**



Western extension to go

Mayor Boris Johnson has announced that, following the results of a public consultation on the western extension of the Congestion Charging zone, he will begin the legal processes required to remove the extension.

A five-week public consultation attracted nearly 28,000 responses and, overall, 67 per cent of individual respondents and 86 per cent of businesses supported the removal of the zone.

Taking steps to get the Capital walking

Plans are afoot to make walking around the Capital quicker and easier.

The Legible London information system, designed to help people get around on foot, is being expanded with trials in three new areas from autumn 2009.

Up to 80 Legible London signs will be installed in Bloomsbury, Covent Garden and Holborn; Bankside and the South Bank; and Richmond and Twickenham.

Legible London has been helping guide visitors around Bond Street for the past year, and will also be extended to cover Oxford Street



and Regent Street. Around 24 new signs were installed before

Christmas, with a further 37 to be introduced by next summer.



The Capital's buses go green

The number of eco-friendly hybrid buses on the Capital's streets is set to quadruple by early 2009.

Last month, 25 of the new hybrids - which have a distinctive green leaf motif - went into service, with a further 18 joining the fleet early in 2009. This will boost the number to 56 and there are plans for another 300 hybrid buses to be in operation by 2011.

Police operation boosts vandalism arrest rate on buses

An anti-vandalism operation which uses CCTV on London's buses has chalked up nearly 3,000 arrests in four years.

Since its launch in 2004, Operation Bus Tag, run by the Metropolitan Police's Transport

Operational Command Unit and funded by TfL, has quadrupled the arrest rate for criminal damage on buses.

Now Bus Tag is set to take on pickpockets and passengers that are violent to staff.

Tottenham Court Road work now well underway

Works have begun to provide Tottenham Court Road with new, high frequency, increased capacity Crossrail services and a rebuilt Underground station.

Some road layouts have been changed and bus routes

diverted. The coming months will see the demolition of several properties to enable construction to begin.

Throughout the works, TfL will try to minimise disruption. This includes keeping the station open as much as possible, as well as maintaining bus services, roads and pedestrian routes to and from the area. **For more information see tfl.gov.uk/tcr**

Fast fact

After the station has been rebuilt and modernised, the new ticket hall will be nearly six times its original size.