

TfL gives Londoners a festive freebie



The Capital's revellers will once again be sure of getting home safely thanks to free New Year Tube and bus travel, courtesy of Transport for London (TfL).

Free travel starts at 11.45pm on 31 December and runs until 4.30am on 1 January. Restricted services will be operating at other times across all modes throughout the Christmas period.

The Congestion Charge does not apply on weekends or Bank Holidays and will be suspended on the three working days between Christmas and New Year's Day.

Passengers should check before they travel during the festive season. For service details, visit tfl.gov.uk, call the 24-hour travel information line on 020 7222 1234, textphone 020 7918 3015, go to page 436 on BBC Ceefax or see page 164 on ITV's Teletext.

London Overground launched

A key part of the Capital's rail network is being transformed following the launch of London Overground.

The new TfL service, which began on 11 November, has already enhanced passengers' experience of the network. Improvements include staff at all stations during operating hours, Oyster pay as you go ticketing, and additional gates at 11 stations.

The London Overground network covers services on the North London, Gospel Oak to Barking, West London and Euston to Watford lines. The extended East London line will be part of the network once it re-opens in June 2010 (continued on page 2).

Single fares frozen for 2008

From January, single fares will be frozen at 2007 prices. More information on the fares package for 2008 is available at tfl.gov.uk/fares

London Overground launched – continued from page one

Further improvements will be delivered as part of an investment programme exceeding £1.4bn.

All stations will be cleaned and repaired by spring 2008 and, by the end of 2010, they will have been refurbished with more Help points, CCTV, better lighting and passenger information systems.

A fleet of 44 new electric, air-conditioned trains will be introduced. These will provide better access, increased capacity and the latest security features. In 2009, eight new diesel trains will enter service on the Gospel Oak to Barking line.

In 2010, London Overground services will operate on the extended East London line with four new stations at Haggerston, Hoxton, Shoreditch High Street and Dalston Junction. A further extension to Highbury & Islington, will be delivered in 2011.

London Overground brings enormous benefits with a railway that links 20 of the Capital's 33 boroughs, creates jobs for local communities, improves access to centres of employment, offers new journey opportunities and enhances the environment by encouraging a shift from car to public transport.

For more information on London Overground, go to tfl.gov.uk/rail



TfL remains committed to phase two of the East London line extension, which would see the line extended from Surrey Quays to Clapham Junction and would allow TfL to complete the orbital rail route.

Four trains per hour would operate on the link, resulting in reduced journey times between south London, Canary Wharf and Broadgate.

The benefits of the scheme have been established and TfL is investigating the possibility of construction and funding being undertaken with other planned investment on the National Rail network.

Extension work to start

The East London line will close on 22 December for major extension work as part of London Overground plans (see above). From 23 December, three new, full-time replacement bus services will operate.

To find out more about the extension, and alternative travel options, go to tfl.gov.uk/ellc

Oyster is now welcomed by London Midland

Oyster pay as you go is now valid on London Midland services between Watford Junction and Euston, plus Southern services between Watford Junction and Clapham Junction and all stations in between.

This follows an offer by the Mayor to provide funding so train operators can install the Oyster system.

London Midland took over the Silverlink County services when London Overground was launched on 11 November (see front page and above). To find out more about Oyster, go to tfl.gov.uk/oyster



Londoners to benefit from £161m funding

Mayor Ken Livingstone has announced £161m of funding for local transport improvements in the Capital over the next year.

The investment will provide the boroughs with funds to carry out a range of projects. These include road maintenance, enhancing bus services, improving road safety, introducing 20mph zones and better pedestrian facilities, extensions to London's Cycle Network+ and the implementation of more travel plans.

The funding is part of a five-year £792m programme for local transport schemes included in TfL's £10bn Investment Programme. Borough-specific information is available under 'November 2007' press releases at tfl.gov.uk/newscentre



TfL is announced as sole Metronet bidder

TfL has been confirmed by the Public Private Partnership administrators as the only formal bidder for Metronet.

As a result, no further steps will be taken to market its two companies, Metronet Rail BCV Holdings Ltd, which is responsible for maintaining and upgrading London Underground's (LU's) infrastructure for the Bakerloo, Central and Victoria lines; and Metronet Rail

SSL Holdings Ltd, which looks after the 'sub-surface' Circle, District, Hammersmith & City, Metropolitan and East London lines.

Under TfL's plans, people and assets will be transferred into two TfL nominee companies in early 2008. These will be managed on a stand-alone basis while the long-term structure is agreed with the Mayor and Government.

News in brief

Tickets for the future

LU has installed more than 100 new Advanced Fare Machines (AFMs) as part of an upgrade of ticketing facilities at stations.

The AFMs will replace 350 old-style machines by the end of March 2008. Passengers will be able to buy both Oyster and paper tickets, including season tickets and Oyster pay as you go, using coins, credit and debit cards.

The machines have been designed to enhance accessibility with a lowered coin slot and bankcard unit. Instructions will be offered in six languages.

Passengers asked to zip it

In the run up to Christmas and New Year, thousands of people will be travelling on the Underground with shopping and sales bargains.

To help protect them from pickpockets and thieves, the British Transport Police in partnership with TfL, the Metropolitan Police and City of London Police has launched the 'zip it' campaign to remind people to keep their possessions safe.

Crime falls on bus network

Crime on London's buses is 11 per cent lower than a year ago, according to latest statistics compiled by TfL and the Metropolitan Police.

Figures for the first six months of 2007/08 show a significant fall in criminal damage, robbery and theft offences. It follows a drop in crime on the network in 2006/07 despite rapidly increasing passenger numbers.

The reduction means there are now just 15 crimes per million passenger journeys.

Views sought on new service for Greenwich

TfL is seeking views on the proposed Greenwich Waterfront Transit service from North Greenwich to Abbey Wood, via Woolwich town centre and Thamesmead.

The scheme promises a fast, frequent bus service connecting passengers with the Tube, National Rail, the Docklands Light Railway and other parts of the bus network. To make journeys as fast as possible, buses will be separate from other traffic on some of the route, running in purpose-built lanes.

The consultation, which runs until 11 January, will outline proposed changes to the local area. These include environmental improvements such as new paving, lighting, and trees, as well as the bus stop locations.

The first service is due to start in autumn 2011. The consultation is running until 11 January.

More information is available at tfl.gov.uk/gwt



Highbury Corner – have your say

TfL, in partnership with Islington Council, has launched a consultation on options to improve Highbury Corner, which will run until 14 January 2008.

Three options have been developed providing easier access to Highbury & Islington Tube station, while improving its facilities and appearance, and making transfers between transport services quicker and safer. Proposals are dependent on securing planning permission and further funding.

Find out more at tfl.gov.uk/highburyandislington

For more information

Further details are available from: Group Public Affairs, Transport for London, Windsor House, 42-50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0TL. Telephone: 020 7126 4411 Email: publicaffairs@tfl.gov.uk

This newsletter is available to you in pdf format via email. If you would like to help the environment and save paper, contact publicaffairs@tfl.gov.uk to receive an emailed version in future.

10,000 reasons to cycle



TfL has installed the 10,000th school cycle parking space in the Capital as part of a drive to get more youngsters travelling by bike.

Last month, Stepney Green Mathematics and Computing College in Tower Hamlets became the recipient of the latest secure, covered cycle park under the Mayor of London's School Cycle Parking Programme.

The Mayor has set a target for all schools in the Capital to have a travel plan by 2009. This will save an estimated 4.5 million car journeys a year, reducing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and congestion while improving Londoners' health.

More than 1,600 London schools (53 per cent) now have a plan. Each one has seen an average seven per cent reduction in the number of car journeys made.

Fleet given a green boost

Another six environmentally friendly hybrid buses have been added to TfL's fleet.

Five single-deck buses, which carry a leaf motif, were introduced on 23 November on route 129 from North Greenwich station to Greenwich Cutty Sark. A sixth bus will also go into service on route 360 from Elephant and Castle to Kensington early in the new year.

The new additions join the six single-deck buses and one double-deck hybrid already operating in London. The buses are cleaner, quieter and use less fuel than a standard diesel vehicle, so emit much less CO₂.