

New Year fares freeze gets underway

Single Tube, bus, DLR and tram fares, both Oyster pay as you go and cash, were frozen on 2 January as part of TfL's latest price package.

This means that single bus fares on Oyster are around 14 per cent lower, and single Tube fares around four per cent lower, in real terms, than in January 2007, when taking into account retail price inflation.

Overall, the average real bus fare has dropped by around seven per cent while the average Tube fare has fallen by approximately one per cent. Prices for One Day Travelcards and Travelcard Season Tickets have risen in line with inflation, as agreement from the privatised National Rail train operating companies is necessary before any price cuts can be introduced.

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

Cab crackdown cuts crime against women

Cab-related sexual offences on women have been cut by 46 per cent over the last five years according to new figures revealed by the Greater London Authority.

Statistics show that incidents have fallen year on year between 2002 and 2007. There were 157 cab-related sexual offences at the end of November 2002 and 84 at the same time in 2007.

A series of major initiatives have led to the drop, including TfL's efforts to license minicab operators, drivers and vehicles, which began in 2001. Those that are unlicensed are now illegal.

In addition, the Mayor's Safer Travel at Night campaign has led to more women becoming aware of the risks of using illegal cabs. The expansion of the night bus network, and initiatives such as Cabwise, which offers Londoners a 24-hour text



service that provides the numbers of local black cab and licensed minicab firms, have increased the options for people out at night in the Capital.

Red means go for the Capital's minicabs

Londoners are benefiting from a safer, more convenient minicab service as the Capital's 40,000 plus licensed private hire vehicles are now eligible to stop on red routes to pick up and set down passengers.

Red routes make up only five per cent of the Capital's road network but carry up to 35 per cent of London's traffic.

Licensed drivers who display a new 'Private Hire' roundel sign on the outside of their vehicle will be

allowed to pick up and set down pre-booked passengers, but not park and wait.

The new sign, which will remind Londoners that licensed minicabs must be pre-booked, is likely to be adopted by the majority of private hire vehicles operating in the Capital.

Ed Thompson, Taxi and Private Hire Director at TfL's Public Carriage Office, said: 'Being able to stop on red routes will particularly help vulnerable passengers, such as elderly and disabled people.'

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

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Transport for London news

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Visit TfL's website at tfl.gov.uk

Lorry owners must prepare for zone launch



Owners of lorries that do not meet London's new Low Emission Zone requirements are being urged to upgrade their vehicles ahead of the scheme's launch on 4 February.

The scheme will be introduced in phases by Transport for London (TfL). It will initially affect diesel engine lorries weighing more than 12 tonnes that are driven within Greater London and that do not meet Euro III emissions standards for particulate matter. Operators of these vehicles will have to pay a daily charge of £200 to enter the zone.

The Low Emission Zone will cover nearly all of Greater London and will be in force constantly. The aim is to cut harmful emissions from the most polluting lorries, coaches and buses and improve air quality across the Capital.

Vehicles that do not currently comply can be fitted with pollution abatement equipment. Operators

could also re-engine their vehicles or convert them to an approved alternative fuel, such as compressed natural gas.

As it can take between four and 12 weeks to order and fit pollution abatement devices, owners of vehicles that need work are being urged to take action as soon as possible.

Nick Fairholme, Head of the London Low Emission Zone, said: 'There are now eight approved suppliers that can offer nearly 2,500 engine-filter combinations but lead times for the work mean that operators need to act now.'

The scheme extends to lorries weighing more than 3.5 tonnes, buses and coaches from 7 July 2008. More details about the Low Emission Zone can be found at tfl.gov.uk/lezlondon. The site includes a list of approved suppliers of pollution abatement equipment.

MAYOR OF LONDON

Transport for London



Station closure promises transport boost

Shepherd's Bush station on the Central line will close for eight months from 2 February to speed-up transport improvements ahead of the Westfield retail development, due to open in late 2008.

During this time the station will be modernised. This will include demolishing and rebuilding the ticket hall and installing a new digital CCTV system, plus passenger help and information points. London Underground will also take the opportunity to install new escalators earlier than originally scheduled.

Major transport benefits will be delivered as part of the Westfield development, including the construction of a new Tube station at Wood Lane on the Hammersmith & City line and a modernised Shepherd's Bush, (Central line) station. The existing Shepherd's Bush (Hammersmith & City) station will be renamed Shepherd's Bush Market at the same time.

There will also be a new bus station, an additional Overground station on the West London line and a modern transport hub, called the Southern Interchange, to the southeast of the development.

Detailed travel advice for passengers will be issued ahead of the closure. For more information, go to tfl.gov.uk/whitecity

Investing for passengers

Westfield London, the £1.6bn retail and leisure development at White City, is being built on a 46-acre site just north of Shepherd's Bush.

To encourage visitors to use public transport, it is being supported by £170m of vital transport investments. It is expected that 60 per cent of visitors will use public transport to reach the development.

TfL's free ride

Dial-a-Ride's door-to-door services for older and disabled Londoners are now free. The move has benefited around 50,000 people who once paid to take 1.2 million journeys a year.

TfL has also been awarded an Independent Living Award by national disabled rights organisation, Breakthrough UK, for its work to make public transport accessible for all. The accolade recognises the introduction of low-floor, wheelchair accessible buses across the entire London fleet at the start of 2006 – 10 years ahead of legal requirements.



Tour a wheel success

Cycling figures in the Capital have risen by a further 10 per cent, according to a TfL report on the impact of last summer's Tour de France.

The first leg of the Tour, called the Grand Départ, was brought to London and Kent in July 2007 by the Mayor of London and TfL.

In the six months from April to September 2007, the number of cyclists on the Capital's major roads increased by 10.5 per cent compared with the same period last year – an estimated 48,000 more cycle journeys every day.

The Capital was also heralded as a great venue for world-class events. Mayor Ken Livingstone and TfL have confirmed negotiations have begun with the Amaury Sport Organisation, owners of the Tour de France, to bring it back to London ahead of the 2012 Games.

For more information about cycling in the Capital, go to tfl.gov.uk/cycling

Business Plan online

TfL has now published its latest Business Plan, which looks as far as 2009/10. To view the document, go to tfl.gov.uk/businessplan

All-time high for Tube

Passenger records on the Underground hit a new high last month as Friday 7 December became the Tube's busiest day ever.

Around 4.17 million passengers travelled by Tube, beating the previous high of around four million on 8 December 2006. A new record for weekend travel was also recorded on Saturday 1 December when almost three million passengers travelled on the Underground.



Langdon Park opening

Thousands of Tower Hamlets residents now have better access to London's public transport network following the recent opening of Langdon Park Docklands Light Railway (DLR) station.

The £7.5m construction is situated between All Saints and Devons Road stations on the DLR route to Stratford, at the heart of the Teviot and Lansbury estates. The station includes CCTV, passenger information displays, Help points, Oyster card validators and step-free access to platforms.

It is very much a 'people's station' with suggestions from local residents incorporated into its design. It will provide significant benefits with pupils from nearby Langdon Park School, for example, having quicker and safer journeys.

Stratford update

DLR has also opened a second platform at the Stratford station complex. This will provide greater capacity by allowing two trains to use the terminal at the same time.

The platforms will help accommodate the substantial increase in passengers over the next few years as a result of the opening of the Stratford International station in 2010, ongoing development of the area and preparations for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

More Londoners can now use Oyster

The Capital's commuters have another reason to celebrate this New Year as Oyster pay as you go has been introduced across three more of London's key mainline rail routes.

On 2 January, Oyster pay as you go became available at stations served by Chiltern, c2c and Hackney area services of 'one'. In November 2007, it was extended to TfL's new London Overground services, London Midland services between Watford Junction and Euston, and Southern services between Watford Junction and Clapham Junction and all stations in between.

TfL has also proved it's in tune with London's music lovers by offering free downloads to new users who sign up for the Oyster Auto top-up facility. Until 29

February, customers who set up an Auto top-up account can download up to five free songs from the iTunes store.

More information about Oyster Auto top-up and the offer is available at tfl.gov.uk/iTunes. Go to tfl.gov.uk/oyster to find out more about Oyster.

Did you know?

Around 78 per cent of all Tube and bus payments in London are now made using Oyster. It's almost three times as fast – 40 Oyster card users can pass through a station entrance or exit gate every minute, compared with 15 paper ticket holders.