

Improvements underway at Shepherd's Bush



Shepherd's Bush (Central line) station has now closed for eight months for vital improvements.

The station is being modernised as part of a multi-million pound upgrade of the Underground. Benefits will include a rebuilt ticket hall to create more space, new escalators and improved CCTV.

The escalators were scheduled for renewal in the next few years and a closure is necessary to replace them. By doing the work while the ticket hall is rebuilt, it can be carried out faster.

Also, fewer people will be inconvenienced if the work takes place before the London Westfield development in White City opens. Around 20,000 passengers already use the station every day, but this is set to double with the arrival of the retail and leisure centre.

Throughout the closure, LU is advising passengers to use White City station. A frequent replacement bus service is running between Shepherd's Bush Central line station and White City during Tube operating hours.

Passengers can also use Holland Park on the Central line or Shepherd's Bush (Hammersmith & City line), where additional staff are on hand. A number of other nearby stations may also be suitable, including Goldhawk Road and Kensington Olympia. In addition, LU is also providing up to 10 more buses per hour to Notting Hill Gate and Marble Arch on route 148.

For up-to-date information, visit tfl.gov.uk/whitecity

Investment in transport

Transport improvements totalling £170m will be delivered as part of the Westfield development. These include a new Tube station at Wood Lane on the Hammersmith & City line and the modernised Shepherd's Bush station. The existing Shepherd's Bush (Hammersmith & City) station will be renamed Shepherd's Bush Market.

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.

Londoners wise-up on cab travel

More and more people are using Cabwise, a 24-hour text service that provides the numbers of local black cab and licensed minicab companies, to ensure they get home safely.

Users can text the word 'HOME' to the Cabwise number, 60835, and the service locates the area the person is texting from. It then sends back phone numbers for a black cab company as well as two local licensed minicab firms.

The service received a record 23,103 requests during December 2007. This was more than 9,200 higher than the previous peak recorded in December 2006.



TEXT: HOME TO: 60835

Recent Greater London Authority figures also show the initiative has helped contribute to a 46 per cent drop in the number of cab-related sexual offences against women over the last five years.

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

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 4411 Email: gsr@tfl.gov.uk

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Multi-billion pound package for transport



The Capital's transport network is set to receive a **£39bn** boost over the next decade, following the Department for Transport's (DfT's) funding announcement on 6 February.

It means Transport for London (TfL) will be able to continue its plans to expand and renew the network.

Key projects to benefit are Crossrail, the ongoing transformation of the Tube, preparations for the 2012 Games, the expansion of rail and bus services and programmes to promote walking and cycling.

The package will be split, with £33bn paid as grant funding from the DfT, and up to a further £6bn of borrowings by TfL.

The current TfL Investment Programme runs until 2010. The detailed TfL programme beyond 2010 will be worked out over the coming months.

Peter Hendy, London's Transport Commissioner, explained: 'This will build on the significant improvements that have already been delivered to bus and Tube services, extension of the Docklands Light Railway and more rail capacity through our new London Overground services.'

Metronet update

Significant progress has been made on bringing Metronet out of Administration this month.

London Underground (LU) will now pay around £1.7bn to Metronet's lenders and the Government has provided an additional grant of £1.7bn, as part of TfL's funding settlement, to cover this.

The Low Emission Zone low-down



The London Low Emission Zone officially went live earlier this month, making it the first of its kind to launch in the UK and the largest anywhere in the world.

It means that the most polluting vehicles must now meet strict emissions standards or pay a daily charge of £200 for driving in the zone. It is in force 24/7 and covers most of Greater London.

Here's more about what the Low Emission Zone means for the Capital:

Why was the zone introduced?

The overall aim is to improve air quality - London has the poorest air pollution in the UK and among the worst in Europe. Poor air quality causes the premature death of an estimated 1,000 people each year in the Capital.

Who does it affect?

The scheme will be introduced in phases. It will initially apply to diesel-engined lorries, and some other specialist vehicles, weighing more than 12 tonnes. From 7 July 2008, it will also apply to lorries weighing more than 3.5 tonnes, plus buses and coaches.

Further restrictions will be introduced in 2010 and 2012. The Low Emission Zone does not apply to cars or motorcycles.

How does it work?

Cameras are being used to identify registration numbers of vehicles driving within Greater London. The DVLA database and other sources are checked to determine a vehicle's emissions standards.

Operators who do not pay the daily charge of £200, and whose vehicles are identified as not meeting the emissions standards, will be liable to pay a daily penalty of £1,000, reduced to £500 if paid within 14 days.

How can vehicles become compliant?

Vehicles manufactured after October 2001 are already compliant. Non-compliant vehicles can be fitted with pollution abatement equipment. An operator could also re-engine the vehicle or convert it to an approved alternative fuel, such as compressed natural gas.

More information about the Low Emission Zone can be found at tfl.gov.uk/lezlondon

The polluter pays, says Mayor

Mayor Ken Livingstone has given the green light to the 'CO₂ Charge', an ambitious new scheme to cut greenhouse gas emissions caused by London traffic.

From 27 October 2008, cars with the highest carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, such as some 4x4s, high powered sports cars and luxury vehicles, will pay a daily charge of £25 to drive in the central London Congestion Charge zone.

Cars with the lowest emissions will receive a 100 per cent discount, encouraging people to use less polluting vehicles in central London.

The charge is a key part of the Mayor's Climate Change Action Plan, which aims to reduce London's CO₂ emissions by 60 per cent by 2025.

The Mayor said: 'The CO₂ Charge will encourage people to switch to cleaner vehicles or public transport and ensure that those who choose to carry on driving the most polluting vehicles help pay for the environmental damage they cause. This is the "polluter pays" principle.'

For more, go to tfl.gov.uk/co2charging

Spare a little thought for fellow passengers

Mayor Ken Livingstone and TfL have launched a campaign to encourage people to be more considerate to one another on London's public transport network.

The campaign launched with a specially-commissioned short film by Oscar-nominated British director Mike Figgis, which is being shown at cinemas across the Capital.

Set on a London bus, it shows the effects that certain behaviour, such as playing loud music, shouting down a mobile phone or eating a take-away, can have on other people's journeys.

There are also posters on buses and at Tube stations featuring five animated 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'.

Ken Livingstone said: 'Public transport is for all Londoners and a little thought from each of us will



make a big difference to everyone using our transport system. This campaign simply asks us to think about the effect of our behaviour on other passengers.'

Early closures vital for Victoria upgrade



The Victoria line is now closing early from Monday to Thursdays so overnight upgrade work can be carried out.

Passengers who usually travel on the line after 21:45 should use alternative routes. The early closures will run until late November 2008.

Upgrading the Victoria line is part of TfL's £10bn Investment Programme. The temporary early closures are necessary to allow the line and trains to be upgraded to meet extra passenger demand and provide faster, more reliable journeys.

The existing trains have been running for 40 years and carry 165 million passengers annually. By 2025,

it is estimated that numbers will rise to 213 million per year.

New trains will feature in-carriage CCTV, wheelchair access, better ventilation and improved visual and audio customer information systems. They will also operate more frequently, reducing both crowding and waiting times.

During the closures the track will be renewed, the power supply upgraded and new signalling and control systems installed. Before being introduced, the new trains must also be thoroughly tested to comply with all safety and operational standards.

Testing began during last year's early closures of the line and is now continuing, so that the first of the new trains can enter service late this year.

In addition, some full and partial line closures will need to take place at weekends. Full details will be publicised nearer the time.

Travel information

Valid Underground tickets will be accepted on local buses and some National Rail services. Two replacement bus services will also operate.

Visit tfl.gov.uk or ring the 24-hour travel helpline on 020 7222 1234 for more details.