

TfL pledges £9.2bn for transport improvements

Transport for London (TfL) has announced a £9.2bn budget for 2009/2010, which will fund a series of major improvements as part of its multi-billion-pound Investment Programme.

The new budget, up from £8.1bn last year, is also underpinned by a drive to deliver better tax and fare-payer value through at least £2.4bn of efficiency savings.

The year ahead will include:

- Completion of the Jubilee line upgrade, delivering 33 per cent increase in capacity to serve an extra 10,000 passengers an hour across London

- The start of the redevelopment of Tottenham Court Road Tube station
- Commencing works at the new Isle of Dogs Crossrail station
- Intensification of work to extend the East London line – as part of London Overground – and the Docklands Light Railway (DLR), in preparation for the 2012 Games
- Works to deliver the Mayor's Cycle Hire Scheme and the first of London's cycle highways

Lower projections for future fare revenue, caused by the deterioration in the wider economy, does mean that some work planned for 2009/10 must

be cancelled or deferred. As a result, the project to install step-free access to the Circle and Metropolitan lines at Baker Street, and the Greenwich Waterfront Transit Scheme, will be cancelled.

TfL is fully committed to improving accessibility of the transport system. The organisation is investing billions to make public transport as accessible as possible for all. There are now 56 step-free Tube stations and this will rise to 71 by 2012. All buses in the TfL fleet, black cabs and the DLR network are low-floor accessible.

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Crossrail route brings jobs bonus

The creation of thousands of jobs is a step closer as Crossrail announced it intends to appoint Bechtel project delivery partner for the Crossrail project.

When completed in 2017, the £16bn project will be the biggest addition to the transport network in London and the South East for more than 50 years.

Mayor of London Boris Johnson said: 'At the height of construction up to 14,000 people will be employed and we anticipate that the vast majority of the jobs required to fulfill these contracts will be created in London and the UK, which can only be good news for the Capital.'



New Tunnelling Academy for Londoners

In his drive to boost access to skills and employment, the Mayor has unveiled details of a new Crossrail Tunnelling Academy.

The new £8m academy is planned to open in 2010, and will provide Londoners with the chance to achieve qualifications in a variety of roles essential to the construction project, and to the city's economy in coming years.

The academy is expected to train around 1,000 people by 2015. Discussions are currently ongoing with the London Borough of Newham to agree a site. TfL has recently launched its Skills and Employment Strategy, which is available online at tfl.gov.uk/skills

Accessibility on the agenda

Set up by TfL, the Independent Disability Advisory Group (IDAG) involves disabled people in the way that TfL shapes and develops its strategy for making London more accessible for all.



The group has recently appointed a new Chair, Dr Alice Maynard, an expert in the field of disability and transport.

During 2009, IDAG will focus on ensuring TfL's investment in accessibility delivers what is important to older and disabled Londoners as part of the Mayoral agenda and revised Disability Equality Scheme 2009-12.

Following an independent review in 2008, IDAG consists of seven people, all appointed for the extensive expertise they bring to the role, and their direct experience of disability. To ensure independence, none of the group works for TfL or the Greater London Authority.

New traffic flow scheme

TfL and 18 boroughs have started a three-month consultation on a permit scheme to better regulate streetworks and minimise disruption.

Under the proposals, companies will apply for a permit to dig up the road and the relevant highway authority will have the power to impose a variety of conditions.

As part of the commitment by the Mayor to smooth traffic flow, more than 500 organisations will be given the opportunity to provide feedback before an application is submitted to the Department for Transport for approval.

Look out for your mates

A stark new road safety campaign from TfL urges teenagers to 'Think! Look out for your mates'.

The campaign's theme, 'Don't let your friendship die on the road', highlights the fact that friendship is one of the most important things in young people's lives.

Teenagers are more likely to be involved in a road collision than any other age group. As a result, compelling posters have been put up close to schools and busy areas across London.

They show young actors who appear to be lying against a wall, however, a second glance reveals them to be lying on the

road as a result of a collision. The message is a clear call to action: 'Think! Look out for your mates'.

In addition to posters, a radio advert dramatises the effect of young loss as a teenager reads a eulogy for a best friend at their funeral. Online, a series of banners will appear on teen websites including Bebo and MSN Messenger.

Youth organisations including London Youth, Kids Company and the British Youth Council have also helped distribute posters and spread the message.

If your organisation would like to assist with campaign materials, please email gasr@tfl.gov.uk



Smarter ways to travel in Richmond

TfL and the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames have launched a three-year £4.2m initiative to help people change the way they travel.

The Smarter Travel Richmond scheme aims to encourage greater use of sustainable travel options such as walking, cycling or using public transport to reduce congestion and improve the local environment.

New cycling facilities will be introduced along with car club bays, improved pedestrian signage and more information on sustainable transport for residents, schools and businesses.



Cycle safely into springtime

London's growing army of cyclists were welcomed to a 'cycle day', sponsored by TfL, at Park Royal in west London during March. More than 100 cyclists had their bikes checked, put questions to police and cycling experts, and discovered how cycling keeps you fit, reduces your carbon footprint and saves businesses time and money.

TfL excels at transport Oscars

TfL scooped eight prestigious honours at this year's London Transport Awards during March.

Among these, London Underground (LU) was named Public Transport Operator of the Year, winning the title for the second year running. The achievement is in recognition of the further improvements LU

has made this year to keep London moving, with customer satisfaction at record levels.

The work between LU, Tube Lines and Alstom, responsible for the maintenance of Northern line trains, was recognised with the award for Transport Partnership of the Year for successfully turning around the performance on this line.

London Overground changes

The frequency of some London Overground train services has been temporarily changed while vital upgrade work is carried out.

As a result, timetable changes are in place until December, and various services will be suspended at different times.

The work between Camden Road and Dalston is the latest stage of the £326m upgrade of London Overground.

For the latest travel information, please go to tfl.gov.uk/tfl/livetravelnews

New taxi fare increase

This year's annual taxi fare revision saw an increase of 3.4 per cent in April to help drivers maintain their earnings and cover operating costs.

Fares are calculated by TfL using a long-established, retrospective cost index based on national average earnings

and taxi operating costs. Operating costs have risen 3.7 per cent this year, with an increase of 4.1 per cent in the cost of diesel fuel.

The TfL Board has also authorised a 40p metered extra to be charged if fuel prices hit 147.1p per litre between now and 1 January 2010.

Vote for your green space

Is there an area of London that you are particularly fond of that needs a little tender loving care?

If so, Mayor Boris Johnson may well be able to help. His 'Great Spaces' initiative aims to refresh and revitalise many public areas to help make the city an even

more appealing place to live, work and visit.

More details will be announced in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, if there's a public space that you think needs a facelift, please email your suggestions to info@designforlondon.gov.uk



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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