

## **Transport and Works Act 1992**

### **The Transport and Works (Applications and Objections Procedure) (England and Wales) Rules 2006**

#### **Rule 10(2)(c)**

#### **The London Underground (Victoria Station Upgrade) Order**

### **CONCISE STATEMENT OF THE AIMS OF THE PROPOSALS**

The Victoria Station Upgrade (“VSU”) project is an important element of works planned as part of Transport for London’s 5 year Investment Programme. It will contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Mayor’s London Plan and Transport Strategy, specifically:

- Proposal 4C.9: improving conditions at London’s most congested stations; and
- Proposal 4C.11: creation of a core accessible network.

The overarching objective of the VSU project is to increase the capacity of Victoria underground station so that it is fit for purpose for handling present and forecast demand, to minimize passenger journey time and improve the quality of access, interchange and ambience, including the provision of step-free access routes from street level to all platforms within Victoria underground station.

In order to achieve this objective the VSU project has three key aims:

#### **1 To increase station capacity**

By 2016 demand is forecast to rise by around 20%. This represents 84,000 passengers during the morning peak compared to 70,000 currently. Without a significant increase in capacity, station control measures such as gateline restrictions and station closures, which are currently used to safely manage congestion, will continue to be used but with increased frequency, causing delay and discomfort for passengers.

The aim of the VSU project is to ensure that, through an increase in capacity, the station maintains acceptable passenger flow conditions for at least a further 40 years after 2016. The VSU project aims to achieve this by providing additional escalators and linking routes to and from the Victoria line, together with facilities such as new and enlarged ticket halls, additional stairs, gatelines, and new lifts.

Three elements in particular will contribute to a significant increase in station capacity:

- A new northern ticket hall, providing greatly improved access from areas north and east of the station. Escalators from this new ticket hall will provide access to the northern end of the Victoria line platforms.
- An enlarged and modernised southern ticket hall, providing greater ease of passenger movement inside the station.
- New escalators and associated low level links/passageways, providing access from the southern ticket hall to the northern end of the Victoria line platform. This end of the platforms is underutilised because of lack of direct access from the current ticket hall and heavy use of the southern end of the platform.

## **2 To minimise passenger journey time**

The need to safely manage passenger numbers on the platforms during peak hours to prevent crowding at the southern ends results in gateline restrictions and station entrance closures, further increasing journey times.

The new escalators in the southern ticket hall will allow passengers to access the northern end of both Victoria line platforms, thus utilising the full length of the platforms. This will distribute demand more evenly along the platforms, allowing passengers to board trains more easily. Passengers alighting from trains will also be encouraged to be spread more evenly along the length of the train and platform.

The VSU project includes a new Northern ticket hall which will provide easier and faster access to the station for passengers going to or coming from the areas around Victoria Street, and who currently need to cross multiple roads to gain access via the Wilton Road entrance. This will serve to further reduce demand and crowding in the southern ticket hall. Furthermore, the location, orientation, and facilities of the northern ticket hall will be designed to be welcoming and easily identifiable, thereby helping to attract the maximum number of potential passengers from surrounding areas via the new route.

## **3 To improve quality of access, interchange, and ambience**

At present the Victoria line has relatively poor access for persons of reduced mobility. The VSU project will provide step-free access between Victoria line platforms and street level and between the Victoria line and District and Circle line platforms. There will be a total of seven lifts in the upgraded station offering step-free access to all platforms.

The station will also include improved access with new stairs, and a substantial increase in overall circulation space.

Finally, the new northern ticket hall, enlarged southern ticket hall, and full modernisation of the existing Underground station with integrated and modern finishes will also provide a significant improvement in the overall ambience of the station, providing a visual component of LU's commitment to delivering a world-class Tube.

In addition to the main aims of the project, VSU also enables realization of Victoria Line Upgrade (“VLU”) project benefits at Victoria station, currently being delivered as a key part the Investment Programme. The VLU project will provide passengers with safer, more reliable and quicker journeys as 47 new, more capacious trains will be brought onto the Victoria line between 2009 and 2013 and improved track, signalling and control systems will be put into place, allowing increased train frequency and faster journeys. The improvements to Victoria Underground station comprised in the VSU project are essential for the full benefits of the VLU project to be realized.