
Campaigns & Advocacy Report

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Bus priority

Since our last meeting, we have commissioned research on bus passenger attitudes and priorities. This will help inform our ongoing bus campaign and conversations with stakeholders, and make sure the views of passengers are at the heart of our work. The fieldwork is being conducted in mid-March, with findings to come at the end of the month. We will be incorporating the results and any recommendations into a report on bus priority, to tie in with 2 years on from the Bus Action Plan's publication.

We have also been meeting London Boroughs to discuss bus priority and performance in their areas, building our insight into their views, priorities, and experiences when trying to implement such measures. Common themes have included the need for more data and sharing of best practice. We also discussed potential ways we could work together to improve bus performance. So far we have met Lambeth, Kensington and Chelsea, and Westminster, and have approached some more for further discussion. The findings will inform our conversations with TfL and upcoming bus report.

We continue to submit responses to TfL bus consultations ahead of planned changes, including on Superloop services. All routes on the Superloop have now been introduced (with the exception of the route through the Silvertown Tunnel, which will not open until 2025). We will monitor how the new services are performing, for example average bus speeds on these routes alongside the network more widely, and are keeping in touch with TfL about how it is working in practice.

We have also restarted our Bus Alliance meetings following a pause during the ticket office consultations, building up existing relationships and new ones, with several new attendees. In recent meetings we have discussed fares, Superloop, bus speeds, consultations and planned research into bus passengers' priorities.

Moving forward with personal security

Following our appearance at the London Assembly Transport Committee's session on personal security, they have written to the Mayor of London with recommendations to improve transport safety. We are pleased that they have supported the findings and recommendations we have previously published, using these as a base for their final output. We hope these actions will be taken forward by the relevant stakeholders, and will look to engage with them to support and drive implementation.

We have continued to have good engagement following the publication of our report into the safety of LGBTQ+ people when travelling around London. This includes meetings with transport operators including c2c, Greater Anglia and TfL. Discussions have focused on how our recommendations to improve personal security on the transport network can be implemented. We have also joined the London Hate Crime Stakeholder Reference Group, and presented our research at the last meeting.

TfL have also announced they'll be commissioning research to better understand the needs of London's different communities, including LGBTQ+ people, aligning with one of our key recommendations. The report is also being seen further afield, with a reference to the research in the Welsh Government's [new bus reform report](#).

A better deal for passengers

Problems on the Central line have been a dominant issue on the TfL network in recent weeks. While motor failures on the fleet have been the main source of disruption, there have also been track monitoring issues which have required significant speed restrictions on parts of the line. Alongside regular conversations with TfL at a working level, we have written to Andy Lord to raise our concerns about the continued disruption on the Central line and pressed the need for better communications to passengers. We have also asked for reassurances on the reliability and resilience on the wider TfL network.

The Department for Transport has published the draft Rail Reform Bill, which will enable the delivery of a key part of rail reform as outline in the Plan for Rail and bring together responsibility for rail infrastructure and services. We attended a briefing on the proposed legislation, and will be responding to the Transport Select Committee's call for evidence as part of their pre-legislative scrutiny.

Any other updates

- I attended TfL's Healthy Streets Advisory Group, where we discussed bus priority, Vision Zero and Local Implementation Plans (LIPs).
- We've been working with the ORR and Network Rail to explore how rail consultations can be improved by providing more transparency around other operators' plans and impacts on passengers.
- We held a wrap-up session with the Department for Transport, where we shared learnings and reflections from the ticket office consultations.
- We met the ORR and Transport Focus to discuss potential changes to Accessible Travel Policies (ATPs) following concerns raised during the ticket office consultations around protection of staffing levels at train stations.
- Following LTW appearances at the London Assembly, we have been cited in the Transport Committee's report on road user charging and the Oversight committee's report on what good consultation looks like.
- We continue to attend the bi-monthly Travel Demand Management (TDM) Forum for London. Recent meetings have included a review of engineering works over the festive period, updates on Piccadilly line upgrade work, and an overview of the partial Northern line and Colindale station closures later this year.

- We also regularly meet TfL to discuss ongoing issues. Recent topics have included the London Overground, all day off-peak fares on Fridays, problems on the Central line, the reporting of infrastructure issues, personal security in taxis and private hire vehicles, and their latest “Travel in London” report.
- I met Transport for All to discuss our work and areas of potential collaboration, including improving PTALs, station accessibility, and bus stop bypasses.
- I joined the quarterly Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (PACTS) meeting. We discussed the group’s priorities for the coming year, personal safety on transport, and ways to future proof the railway.
- We met the National Federation of the Blind UK, where we discussed accessibility and bus stop bypasses, shared use bus boarders and other similar designs.
- I attended the launch of the Bakerloo line upgrade and extension impact assessment, commissioned by Central London Forward, Lewisham Council and Southwark Council.
- We went to the Railway Industry Association’s launch of a new report looking at potential long-term passenger growth on rail up to 2050, and how the industry can encourage people to travel by train.
- I attended an event held by TfL and the Green Alliance looking at the transition to greener buses and fleet electrification.