

PUBLIC TRANSPORT LIAISON COMMITTEE		
Report Title	Rail Related Questions	
Key Decision	No	
Ward	All	
Contributors		
Class	Part 1	Date: 1 November 2022

1. TfL - Highways Division:

Please can you share with us your standard monitoring data for red route enforcement for the London Borough of Lewisham.

Please can you let us know the frequency of enforcement visits per month you have undertaken on the Red Routes in Lewisham over the last year, with additionally a month by month breakdown of PCNs issued for those who have without authority:

- parked on red lines
- parked on the pavements of TfL maintained roads
- crossed, unauthorised, pavement to park on curtilage/forecourts

(Councillor James-J Walsh (Labour), Representing Rushey Green Ward)

2. Southeastern –

Effect of services not now going to Cannon Street from Lee; what happens when issue at e.g. Waterloo East/Charing Cross line, as opposed to planned engineering works. Not everyone commutes at “rush hour”.

(Councillor Hilary Moore (Labour), Representing Grove Park)

3. Southern Rail -

In order to travel between East Croydon, Gatwick or Brighton to stations between London Bridge and Anerley, passengers have to change at Norwood Junction - already a busy station serving London Overground, Southern and Thameslink services. Are there plans to improve access between platforms at Norwood Junction by installing wider stairs/lifts?

(Sydenham Society)

4. Southern Rail

1. Can you please let us know when you anticipate restoring a full pre-COVID timetable on the Croydon- London Bridge line?

As one example of many problems, the reduction of the rush hour service (the 8:19 weekday service in particular) is causing severe overcrowding at Brockley and New Cross Gate on the 8:22 TfL service.

Not only are journey times increased by the reduced service, the reduction in service is creating additional problems at Canada Water TfL station as passengers wanting to reach London Bridge, are being forced to use the TfL services and causing overcrowding at the escalators and then on Jubilee line services. More generally, the level of overcrowding on TfL services caused by the reduction in Southern Rail services, is surely creating a situation where transmission of Covid and 'flu will increase once again.

2. Is there any possibility having the Croydon-London Bridge route re-established as it was previously, terminating at East Croydon. The need to change at Norwood Junction is time-consuming and difficult as there is no step free route to change for East Croydon and Gatwick bound passengers. TfL Overground services service Norwood Junction and West Croydon, so the replacement of the East Croydon service would be of considerable help to passengers.

3. (and Lewisham Council)

Prior to the re-development of London Bridge station, the Croydon line ran through to Charing Cross outside rush-hour, giving residents a quick direct service for the West End. When this service was removed the then Transport Minister, Lord Adonis, promised users it could be re-established once the new cross-overs were in place. This has not happened. The need to change at London Bridge can mean that journey times are hugely extended. (For example the journey from Charing Cross to New Cross Gate was 16 minutes is now an average of 30 minutes and potentially 45 minutes). We appreciate this cannot be amended until franchises are changed but will Southern Rail (with the help of Lewisham Council) commit to lobby for and negotiate a return to the services we had prior to "modernisation"? The route through London Bridge is available (as used by Thameslink services which run through our stations non-stop). It would provide additional revenue for Southern Rail (as faster and more convenient than the 30 minute route via TfL and Whitechapel) and would give a boost to the West End.

(NB if one goes to the National Rail enquiries website and search for trains from Charing Cross to New Cross gate, it only provides you with the route

using TfL services changing at Whitechapel, and does not show the National Rail route at all (changing at London Bridge at all.)

Southeastern Rail

1. Given the current poor service from Southern Rail into Charing Cross, residents using New Cross Gate station would sometimes walk to New Cross station (6 to 10 minutes) in order to make their journey or, on the reverse journey take a train from Charing Cross to New Cross and walk. However all New Cross services now run to Cannon Street. All Charing Cross services now seem to run fast to Deptford or Lewisham creating significant inconvenience to those living in the New Cross/New Cross Gate area. Is there a possibility that Southeastern services through to Charing Cross, stopping at New Cross, will be restored?

Network Rail

1. (and Lewisham Council) Can we have an update on the feasibility of re-opening Brockley Lane station? This is long overdue, especially with the increased usage of the East London Overground line through Brockley.

2. Are there any plans to install lifts at Nunhead Station? (Nunhead Station is just in the Borough of Southwark but used by a significant number of residents in Telegraph Hill and Brockley in Lewisham.)

NB: For TfL – Buses question please refer to document attachment: 'Bus Questions – PTLC – 1 November 2022)

TfL Underground

1. Could we have an update on the status of the Bakerloo Line Extension proposals please?

2. The link at Whitechapel between the East London Line and the Underground is increasing well used with the advent of the Elizabeth Line however the train indicator system does not provide adequate passenger information. Passengers will now have, for a number of journeys, to use either the Hammersmith and City Line or the Elizabeth Line. There is no way of telling however at Whitechapel station, which is likely to be the best option.

Conversely, for example at Moorgate, the new entrances show the next Elizabeth line train, but not the next H&C line train; on the H&C line platform, the indicators may tell you that the next train is for Aldgate, the one after a Circle Line, the one after that (there is a maximum of 3 shown) another Aldgate train: what passengers need to know is how long the next train on their line will be, but often for H&C trains, that information is not available at all.

Can the passenger information be upgraded to provide useful information for passengers?

(This issue was raised during the refurbishment of the Moorgate, Liverpool Street and Whitechapel when the Elizabeth line was being constructed, but has not been dealt with).

(Telegraph Hill Society)

5. Thameslink/TfL:

- What are your current plans for reinstating the Thameslink through line beyond Blackfriars to St Pancras, St Albans etc outside peak hours; and for establishing more regular connections to Victoria?
- What are updated plans regarding the extension of the Bakerloo Line to Lewisham and beyond?
- What alternatives have been considered to cutting the connection between Blackheath and Charing Cross stations?
- Please provide an update on TfL finances and expected effects on bus routes
- Please provide an update on plans for A21 improvements

(Councillor James Royston (Labour), Representing Catford South)

6. South Eastern Rail

1. What rationale is there for the cuts to off-peak services to Charing Cross through Blackheath station?

2. In November 2017, 89% of respondents to a questionnaire referenced in the South Eastern Rail Franchise Stakeholder Briefing Document opposed a reduction of “choice of central London destinations served by individual stations with the aim of providing a more regular and reliable service.” It notes also opposition was greatest in Blackheath. Why now have no steps have been taken to consult with Blackheath residents and why was the London Borough of Lewisham not informed prior to the public press release?

3. What impact does Southeastern believe an increased number of passengers changing over in Lewisham and London Bridge will have on service quality in general and accessibility for those with mobility difficulties in particular?

4. With the reduced use of tracks by services to Charing Cross from Blackheath station, are there plans for other lines be run through the station without stopping? If so, which lines are these and why do they take priority over the needs of Blackheath residents?

(Councillor Luke Warner (Labour), Representing: Blackheath)

7. Govia/TfL

1. I want to ask about the loss of direct services from Sydenham to East Croydon and direct services from Penge West/Anerley to London Bridge. Residents are very concerned it is full at Sydenham. For example: On the morning of Wednesday 19 October 2022, the 8.26am service at Forest Hill, was standing room only.
2. Second question is the proposed timetable from South Eastern Trains having seen their published timetable for services from December 2022. This indicates that the Hayes line, which runs via Lower Sydenham, will no longer go as far as Cannon Street. Instead trains will terminate at Charing Cross and will no longer stop at Lewisham. Regular users confirm that this is a popular service (standing room only in the morning rush hour) and removes 50% of connections with the DLR. Residents are concerned about the implications in a range of areas, including the impact on commuters, likely accessibility issues and the potential for people reverting to their cars with the obvious associated environmental impacts.

I hope that we can have a full reply from Southern and Southeastern regarding the changes to the timetable and how this has a detrimental effect for residents living in Sydenham.

(Councillor Chris Best (Labour), Representing: Sydenham)

8. TfL

Would TfL consider improving the links between Downham and Bromley train stations such as Beckenham Junction and Bromley South? The buses that serve those routes, the 336 and the 54, are often delayed and not as often as residents would require them, especially at rush hour. This change would ensure residents can access a number of new destinations, such as Victoria station, and would help towards fewer people needing to drive.

(Councillor Oana Olaru (Labour), Representing: Downham)