

# MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT LIAISON FORUM MEETING

Tuesday 5 December 2023

Present: Councillor Royston (Chair), Councillor Huynh, Councillor Krupski. Transport colleagues from: TfL, Southeastern Network Rail and Stagecoach.

Also present: Councillor Jacq Paschoud

## 1. Minutes

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as accurate.

## 2. Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

## 3. Transport Responses

- 3.1. Question 1- There was no supplementary question. Councillor Huynh highlighted that he will be doing a site visit to the road.
- 3.2. Question 2 – no supplementary questions were asked.
- 3.3. Question 3- no supplementary questions were asked.
- 3.4. Question 4: Councillor Royston thanked TfL for response. He asked TfL to say more about the plans for active travel strategy for LBL. TfL responded that they do regularly catch ups every week and discuss what priorities for the borough are. They received extra funding for cycling infrastructure along A21 spine.  
Councillor Paschoud asked if there was a way in making it mandatory that cyclists dismount from the bridge, e.g. a barrier. The Transport Officer said he would work with TfL colleagues on the improvement of the bridge and getting the funding necessary for replacement works.
- 3.5. Question 5- RM asked when routes be retendered and is it a requirement of the retendering process that electric buses are used going forward. TfL stated that they are waiting for response from colleagues on when these routes will be retendered. He said that he was unsure on requirement for electric buses retendering but all buses will be electric by 2034.
- 3.6. Question 6: No supplementary questions were asked.
- 3.7. Question 7: Network Rail explained further that the cost of the refurbishment is over £1m. The agreement with the local authority is to find funding from their

own sources of funding for the passes over the railway and the local authority will find funding for the ramp.

- 3.8. Question 8- The questioner asked a supplementary question about the 1995 report which considered to build the bridge. Network Rail were not familiar with report. The Questioner stated that they would share with colleagues once an FOI request had been submitted.
- 3.9. Question 9: Councillor Huynh asked if there had been explorations of putting a gate line at the top of ramp. Southeastern responded that it would not comply with safety regulations. At bottom there would not be enough space for barriers. They would need to build platform which would be more costly. Councillor Huynh then asked if the barriers could be replaced with tap in tap out function. It was responded that this barrier gate line prevents anti-social behaviour and fare evaders. what would be the measure. Southeastern stated that they will be working with TfL and Network Rail to add a gateline to platform 1. He added that the investment plans to Lewisham Station will be shared with Forum.
- 3.10. Question 10: No supplementary questions were asked.
- 3.11. Question 11: The questioner stated that Canada Water is very busy in the morning and the East London line is generally congested. He stated that there is a hidden demand for traffic towards London Bridge particularly for passengers heading North, and there are other routes that are not being utilised.
- 3.12. Question 12: No supplementary questions were asked.
- 3.13. Question 13: No supplementary questions were asked.
- 3.14. Questions 14: The questioner asked why it is so difficult to get a rezoning of Lower Sydenham station. Southeastern responded that they are a not for dividend company and on subsidy of £350m a year and are expecting significant increase of energy cost. In the view Southeastern retail colleagues, it would not be revenue generative. It is a viable decision and would also need to be agreed by other transport networks, so it is a complex decision.
- 3.15. Question 15: the questioner asked if were possible to get data of passenger numbers for Lower Sydenham and Sydenham Station.
- 3.16. Question 16: The questioner asked if it would be possible for Stagecoach to look at the bus departure timetable for bus 181 from the Bell Green Sainsbury's. as there are long waits and no shelter for passengers. Stagecoach responded that by law, drivers must take some relief before starting their new journeys. Because of delays, this could mean that the timetable can run overtime.

#### **4. AOB**

4.1. Southeastern gave a brief presentation highlighting that the ticket office proposals discussed at the last meeting have now been withdrawn. This was a universal decision across the British network. In December 2023, Southeastern will be introducing more services with the new timetable. In June, they will increase capacity again.