



Thames Gateway Bridge

TfL will no longer be pursuing the proposed Thames Gateway Bridge (TGB). Instead, there will be a review of alternative options for a 'much needed' new east London river crossing, including Silvertown crossing. This will be part of a wider study to assess long-term transport and land use needs of the London Thames Gateway.

London First view:

We welcome a proper study of the long term transport needs of the Thames Gateway. We hope that nothing will be ruled out – including some form of crossing from Beckton to Thamesmead (the intended route of TGB) as part of a wider strategy.

Congestion

"Smoothing traffic flow represents a major new policy focus for TfL"

Positive elements include:

- re-timing all traffic lights over 6 years to give more green time for traffic
- pedestrian countdown technology (shows pedestrians how long before lights change)
- some road improvement schemes on North Circular and at Tottenham
- dropping some projects that would make congestion worse – Parliament Square, Victoria Embankment, Euston Road

The Plan includes for the first time a Key Performance Indicator for road journey time per mile. This is a welcome and necessary step to help TfL give priority to congestion management. We shall seek clarity on exactly what it covers.

This is all welcome, but does not go far enough:

- still no separate budget for cutting congestion
- borough funding to be distributed by formula, not focused on reducing congestion
- little practical specifics on helping distribution and servicing
- nothing on possible improvements at Ealing (North Circular and A40)

Buses

Bus subsidy, which has risen a great deal in recent years is capped at around £720 million from 2014 onwards.

The plan commits to an independent review of bus planning and contracting, in order to achieve better value for money. Separately TfL will assess how bus volumes in Oxford St might be reduced, while minimising the negative impact on passengers.

All of these reflect London First campaign priorities, the latter shared with NWECC and other West End stakeholders.

Legible London

"Among improvements for walkers will be better information for pedestrians, including the innovative Legible London scheme, which is being piloted in a number of locations".

We have pressed for these pilots to go ahead.

Risks

A section on risk management fails to identify risks associated with the Crossrail project or the integration of former Metronet contracts.