

Council Assembly - Community Views

28 November 2012 – Transport in Southwark

Resident 1

The cost of transport has certainly affected me as I have come off benefits to take up full-time education. I have a tight budget for bus fares and walk whenever I can. The C10 bus is not frequent or regular enough, and that has a big impact.

I and people from my college, who live in my area, are now walking to avoid one leg of our bus journey, to save on fares to commute to college. Street lighting is an issue for us – we don't feel safe to walk in the dark footpaths.

Resident 2

I'm a taxi driver and I don't think the prices should have gone up - £2 is a bit expensive for a bus – it's like Council Tax, you don't get a choice....but my kids use the bus every day. Pricing hasn't affected my passengers who use my cab to keep safe.

Resident 3

It's very expensive, especially if you're going out as a family...as a single mum, I can't take them out as much.

Resident 4

The cost of transport impacts a lot on the way I have to travel....I have to travel a lot less often, only to and from school, trains cost too much money and stuff...because I have a 16 plus Oyster card, I can take the bus for free, but it's costing me a lot to travel to and from school as then I need to take the train as I don't know the route...my friends take the bus to get to college and back, but I don't.

Resident 5

I am on benefits so I pay half price for buses, but some other people who are working have to pay more for bus fares, and a couple of them ride bikes instead. But you know it's not everyone that can afford to buy a bike and they are expensive!

Resident 6

Yes my husband travels every day, I don't normally go to work everyday now because I am on maternity leave. My husband pays as he goes. And he doesn't use an oyster card; so it's expensive. I think people will change how they travel, for example I have some friends, they are actually much younger than me. They go to central London to learn English and they have to take buses and it takes them about an hour and a half more actually.

Resident 7

Well my earnings never increase, but transport fares always increase, they are very high now. And sometimes on the Northern Line there is a signal failure, and so it affects my work because the manager will not want to listen to such excuses – the tube is expensive and unreliable. The tubes need to be more frequent. The bus is not easy either, so we are forced to walk or to cycle. It's not easy, but that is life.

Resident 8

Transport costs make it harder to travel to places; it makes it harder to get to work as well. And you don't get a good service either I think on trains or buses. So, to get somewhere quickly, it's quite expensive to do, so sometimes you don't really want to do it. Or it just costs too much money. I used a train the other day from Peckham to London Bridge, and it cost me £2.60, to get to work, so it's expensive but you have to pay it. I think it is going to take some people off of transport and I feel it might make people walk or ride bikes, or some other form of transport, like sharing cars. For sharing cars it's got to be organised so more people can do it.

Resident 9

Well for me personally I just feel that the fares are just too high, and sometimes you get on a bus or a tube, and they are just so full. You paying more and nothing's really changed on the buses or the trains. People will stop using trains altogether. And we need more buses out on the road, or they can put down the fares a bit and so increase the number of people using them.

Resident 10

I have a freedom pass and a car. I expect transport costs to have gone up because it has affected my sons, especially as they are low earners. They have no money left over to do other things. I wish there was a new Jubilee line tube station along Jamaica Road

Resident 11

Too many diversions make people late. [The right people] should have fixed all roads by now. I notice there are a lot more bikes on the road. Some [vulnerable people] don't use transport because they can't walk and need help with their wheel chair getting on the bus, etc. I'm going to get a bike, and will walk from the Blue to Peckham.

Resident 12

The cost of transport, as with the cost of living in general affects a lot of people who have not got a job. I don't use a car as it's expensive but travel on public transport and walk. More people are turning to using bikes because it's cheaper.

Resident 13

I've just moved 2 months ago into this area, and have found the cost of transport too expensive. It has restricted my job search to Elephant and Castle and Borough. I get the impression more bikes are in use in the winter. I'm satisfied with what I have but I would like buses to wait a little longer if I'm running to catch one.

Resident 14

I would like to be able to afford travelling on public transport like the buses [as I used to] but the increased cost of transport is negatively affecting me. Now I always ride my bike.

Resident 15

I don't see myself getting a good deal for the amount of money I pay on transport. The cost affects where I will work, and whether or not I take a job. I notice people are walking and cycling more than they used to, and I myself will aim to walk and cycle and walk more.

Resident 16

The increased cost of transport has affected me badly. I can't afford travelling by train or the tube. I am a bus user but even a weekly bus pass is very expensive.

The buses are very full [nowadays], and I would like to cycle if I felt safer on the road.

Resident 16

I like cycling for fitness, and for convenience's sake. As a former tube worker, I have always found bus and trams heavily used. With fares doubling, I think I'll continue cycling, although it would depend on where the jobs are re-located.

Resident 17

I'm learning to walk a lot and often walk to Camberwell, because of the high cost of transport. More people are now using public transport because of the [good] network, with Peckham bus garage and Peckham train station. I would really like to see [another] local tube station.

From the SE1 discussion forum:

Resident 18

I use bikes about 3 to 4 times a week, but with the annual charge soon to increase by 100%, I'm thinking of buying a bicycle – that would also solve the problem of not being able to use the bikes in the evening because of not finding docking stations.

Resident 19

I bought a bike on the bike to work scheme for £60 a month, and save myself £100 a month in spite of this, and I'm getting fitter....Getting on a bike and cycling across the centre of London is soooo much nicer than squashing on the tube or waiting for a non-existent bus!

If you are healthy and live less than 7 or 8 miles from work, there really is no excuse for not considering this.

Resident 20

I was quite sceptical that I could cycle 7 or 8 miles, until I did it. It's not that far on a bike. However, I probably wouldn't want to do it everyday before work without building up to it.

Southwark visitor

The cost has affected my work anyway, because they don't give me transport anymore. I am a social worker and here is my client, he has learning disabilities. I take him on the train and buses, and we are visiting Southwark, well he is and I am looking after him. So I pay for myself. I used to get a little bit of money towards it, but now, cuts and that. I think it is unfair also that the people I work with also have to pay. After all they don't get much money anyway, so it's kinda like, a bit hard. So everything he has to pay for now, basically he has to pay for himself.