



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London
(MTS Statement of Intent)
Greater London Authority
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2BR

Transport planning
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Our reference: 20090615_MTS Sol
Your reference:

Dear Mr Johnson,

Southwark Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on your consultation on the statement of intent for the revision of your Transport Strategy. Southwark Council recognises the complexity in developing and delivering transport improvements within London and having considered the document the council would like to raise the following issues.

Whilst the council acknowledges the long term nature of the document, the statement of intent reflects two time periods, up to 2017 representing the current TfL business plan and beyond this to 2031. The initiatives and actions identified up to 2017 reflect current plans and this lacks the ambition found in previous Mayoral transport documents. In addition the London landscape will change significantly within this time period and the transport network should reflect these changing needs. In the longer term, greater ambition is required to provide the drive and impetuosity to identify the projects and funding to meet the changing transport needs of the capital.

Sub regional plans

Southwark supports the development of sub regional plans and is included in both the central and southern sub regional areas. The council believe that the borough's needs are to be reflected in both plans. It is important that these needs identified through this process are supported and reflected in the revised MTS, as these will provide the overarching framework for the preparation of local implementation plans, which will prioritise transport schemes in the boroughs. Accordingly, the timeframes for the development of these plans must be in line with that of the draft MTS to give boroughs the opportunity to understand and comment on the impact of changes to the MTS.

Major transport projects

On a more local aspect, the document recognises the important link between transport improvement and land use growth. Southwark contains a number of opportunity areas including Elephant and Castle, the Aylesbury Estate and Peckham. Southwark is one of the fastest growing boroughs in London and is one of the few areas which is unlikely to significantly benefit from the committed major transport projects, which include the tube upgrades and Crossrail.

The improvement of transport services and operation in this area is a key driver of these regeneration projects and the cross river tram bisected a number of these sites. Therefore the council feels that there should be a greater recognition of the need to address these key cross cutting benefits of transport provision and opportunity with regeneration.

The council is encouraged by the commitment to tunneling technology and the possible extension of the Bakerloo line further south into the borough as identified in the earlier document 'Way to Go' and would encourage a greater emphasis on this important project.

Traffic network

One of the greatest challenges facing Southwark is managing traffic flows in the borough particularly given an increasing population. Shadowing this is an overstretched public transport system for which only minor investments are proposed particularly in the 2017 time period. The council supports the improved coordination of works on the highway network, however the borough would encourage a more rigid, detailed and longer term programme to support the overall reduction of vehicular traffic on the road network.

Road safety

London is facing one of its greatest challenges to improve the safety of those using our roads. Improving safety within our community for those living, working or visiting the borough is one of the council's key ambitions. In response to 'Way to Go' Southwark Council expressed support for a greater emphasis on improving safety in the revision of the Mayor's transport strategy. It is with disappointment that this has not been reflected in the statement of intent and the council would like to reiterate the need for road safety to be given greater priority within the revised MTS particularly as on your own road network (TLRN) there is a disproportionate level of collisions compared to that of borough roads. Therefore road safety should have a greater weighting within your policies.

Bus operation and the need to review bus route planning

Southwark has a high reliance on the bus network particularly within the central areas of the borough. These buses provide both positive and negative impacts and the effects of operation within central London are often carried over to these areas. The council would welcome longer term planning of both the network and services to provide a more reflective pattern to the changing needs of passengers. This planning should also make the system more logical and easier to understand and use.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the statement of intent and if you would like to discuss any of the issues raised above please contact Sally Crew on 020 7525 5564.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Paul Kyriacou
Executive Member for Environment

Cllr Paul Noblet
Executive Member for Regeneration

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