



TfL Northern line extension
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Your ref

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Dear Sir/Madam

Southwark Council's response to TfL's consultation on the Northern Line extension

Southwark welcomes the opportunity to comment on the proposed Northern Line extension. We have three key points to make in response.

Impact on services post-construction

Our primary concern is the impact of the proposed extension on users of stations within Southwark with the completion of the extension. Currently these stations experience passenger crowding as well as train crowding, and this is predicted to continue, not least to Kennington Station itself. A key question we would like to raise is, will users of Elephant & Castle and London Bridge stations, which are both key regeneration areas in the borough, be able to get on trains in the peak hours?

We note that proposal includes plans for the partial separation of the Northern line with the Charing Cross and Bank branches being separated at Kennington. This will enable an increase in peak hour service frequency. However we would like TfL to demonstrate whether this capacity increase will be sufficient to cope with the predicted increase in passenger numbers and how this will impact on the rest of the line – particular stations in Southwark.

We note that TfL Railplan modelling is still ongoing, and hope that once complete station modelling will be refined to further understand the long term impact at Kennington, Elephant & Castle, Borough and London Bridge stations.

Future improvements to Kennington Station

With the advancement of the Northern Line Extension, with all its impacts locally, there is an opportunity to improve the service for local users of Kennington Station. This underground station has long suffered from anti-social behaviour and low-level

crime. Responding to public calls for longer staffing hours and / or greater use of CCTV monitoring would go a long way towards resolving the situation.

We want to also reiterate to TfL Southwark Council's longstanding campaign for Kennington Station to be re-designated a Zone 1 station. The improvements to and expansion of the Northern Line lend further support to this request and we would ask TfL to review the zoning of the station alongside the extension.

Surface disturbance during construction

We recognise that a significant degree of disruption to local residents is inevitable through lorry traffic on residential roads, risk of building settlement, temporary loss of parking places, and engineering works leading to noise, dirt and vibration. We appreciate that efforts are being made to minimise this disruption, but would urge that the option with least disruption to our residents is pursued as well as fully mitigating any inconvenience and risk caused particularly to the users of Bishop's House Children's Centre, regardless of any cost differentials.

We also request that serious consideration is given to relocating the junction of the existing line to a section of the loop beneath the park. If this is not possible, we are seeking assurances that the current plans to site a ventilation shaft in Harmsworth Street and tunnelling below will not result in subsidence to any of the properties in the area. We also wish to see the galley tunnelling option fully explored.

Service patterns during construction

We understand that modelling is still underway to determine the optimum service patterns during construction. Our concerns are primarily related to the operation of the station: there is a risk that reduced services, coupled with the proposed split between Bank and Charing Cross branches giving rise to an increased demand for interchange, will lead to significant congestion at the station.

Whilst Southwark welcome the chance to respond to this consultation, we feel that the deadline is too soon given that we are expecting further information regarding the extension in the coming weeks. If you would like to discuss any of the issues contained within this letter please contact Sally Crew on 020 7525 5564.

Yours faithfully



Cllr Barrie Hargrove
Cabinet Member for Transport, Environment and Recycling