

EDITED PRESS RELEASES

TRANSPORT FOR LONDON

OYSTER EXTENSION PERMITS NO LONGER NEEDED AS MAYOR AND TRAIN COMPANIES MAKE TRAVEL IN LONDON EASIER THAN EVER

11 March 2011

Travel around the Capital is set to become even easier for millions of people thanks to closer working between the Mayor of London, Transport for London and train companies. During a rail summit at City Hall today chaired by the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, and attended by the train companies that operate in Greater London, a series of improvements were agreed to build on the achievements of the last 12 months and make rail travel across the Capital even better. At today's summit, it was announced that from the end of May there will be no more need for Oyster users heading for the edges of the Capital to get an Oyster Extension Permit.

The permits were introduced by the train companies in January last year when Oyster was rolled out onto National Rail services. Passengers using an Oyster Travelcard who wanted to travel outside their Travelcard zones have had to load an Oyster Extension Permit onto their Oyster card to indicate their intention to extend their travel using Oyster pay as you go credit. Although free of charge this required additional loading at ticket offices or ticket machines. It was made clear at last year's rail summit that it was considered the permits to be confusing, and train companies subsequently responded by undertaking a review of the system and agreeing the permits should no longer be required.

The Mayor and the train companies also agreed a range of other improvements, to benefit all rail users, at the summit including:

- A new, clear and combined Rail and TfL Oyster map for London that will soon be appearing at rail and Underground stations. Designed by TfL and the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) following passenger research, the map replaces the train companies' London Connections and TfL's Oyster maps, making it easier for Londoners and visitors alike to navigate the city.
- TfL and train companies will work jointly to finalise plans to extend Oyster pay as you go outside London.
- Train companies and TfL will work jointly to evaluate the extension of payment using contactless bank cards to National Rail services for its introduction in 2012.
- Train companies and TfL will further explore how to improve passenger information, particularly during times of disruption.
- Train companies and TfL will work together to finalise travel arrangements for the London 2012 Games.
- The Mayor and train companies will work together to seek sustained and continued investment to improve transport in the capital, and meet the expected rise in demand in coming years.

NEW GATEWAY TO THE LONDON 2012 GAMES OPENS AS STRATFORD REGIONAL STATION UPGRADE NEARS COMPLETION

21 March 2011

A new London Underground ticket hall and entrance at Stratford Regional Station, which will help keep Londoners and visitors moving now and during the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, opened on Sunday 20 March 2011. The new station facilities have been funded by the Olympic Delivery Authority and Transport for London, providing a legacy for the Capital yet delivered well ahead of the London 2012 Games. The new entrance is part of a multi-billion investment in transport, which is on track and will make this part of East London one of the best connected areas of the Capital. Passengers will now be able to enter and leave the station more easily and congestion will be reduced especially during the London 2012 Games. The bright and spacious modern ticket hall is located on the mezzanine level of the station and provides direct access to the Central Line, which also has a new platform for passengers to exit on both sides. Around 120,000 people are

expected to use Stratford Regional Station at peak times during the London 2012 Games. Over £200 million is being invested at Stratford Regional Station by the ODA and TfL. The steps leading up to the new mezzanine entrance were funded by Westfield.

LET'S GET DIGITAL – UNDERGROUND PASSENGERS COULD BE CHECKING THEIR EMAILS AT STATIONS BY THE LONDON 2012 GAMES

21 March 2011

Following a successful trial of Wi-Fi technology at Charing Cross Underground station, London Underground is inviting telecoms companies to tender for Wi-Fi provision at up to 120 stations across the network by June 2012. A contract will be awarded to the chosen bidder by the end of 2011, which could mean that passengers will be able to log on to the internet from their laptops or mobile devices at stations before the 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games. The trial at Charing Cross Underground station, which began in November 2010, tested how the Wi-Fi service worked and also looked at customer reaction over several months. The trial, which was carried out with BT Openzone, was met with enthusiasm by passengers. The first phase of wider Wi-Fi provision on the Tube would be to make available the service currently used by LU staff at 16 stations for customer use, and then to work to expand this service to other underground stations.

Research from Charing Cross Underground station found that over half of London Underground passengers surveyed felt that access to Wi-Fi would make their experience of using the Underground better. Many people questioned have said they would like to see this service rolled out to more stations on the Underground and that connecting to a wireless broadband hotspot with a Wi-Fi enabled device at an Underground station is very useful.

London Underground expects the tender to be of interest to existing service providers and other established internet service providers looking to expand into the public Wi-Fi market. As well as improving journeys for customers, Wi-Fi services are a potential future revenue source for London Underground. The tender is for the provision of Wi-Fi services at stations and will allow passengers to access their emails anywhere in the station. The service does not extend to trains.

This invitation to tender will also allow prospective partners to supply details of how they would create a Wi-Fi network at street level at places such as bus shelters or bus hubs. A contract notice will appear in the Official Journal of the European Union later this month and the tender is also being advertised in the national press next Tuesday. The trial at Charing Cross Underground station is ongoing and passengers will continue to be able to access Wi-Fi at the station until later this year.

Editor's Note: As this issue closed for press it was announced that proposals to equip the underground with a mobile phone network have collapsed because network providers were unable to come to an agreement with LU over plans for the Jubilee and Central lines – Source: "Metro" and London area teletext, 01.04.11 (!).

MAYOR ANNOUNCES SHORTLISTED BIDDERS FOR ADDITIONAL TRAMS IN CROYDON

24 March 2011

It has been announced that the shortlisted bidders to supply Transport for London with up to ten more trams, which will increase services on the Tramlink network, are: City of Edinburgh / CAF, Stadler (Stadler Pankow GmbH) and Pesa (Pojazdy Szynowe PESA Bydgoszcz S.A. Holding). They will now be invited to submit proposals to supply the additional trams which would increase the frequency of services on the busiest parts of the network between Therapia Lane, central Croydon and Elmers End. The London Borough of Croydon has confirmed a £3m contribution in funding to the project which will also include the refurbishment of tramstop surrounds. If acceptable bids are received, the extra trams could be in service within a year.

MAYOR UNVEILS DESIGN OF THE ROYAL WEDDING OYSTER CARD

29 March 2011



The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson and Transport for London today unveiled the design of the limited edition Royal Wedding Oyster card. The design features a portrait of the couple and the wedding date of 29 April 2011 and will be on sale in the week leading up to the ceremony.

Around 750,000 Royal Wedding Oyster cards will be available while stocks last from all London Underground and London Overground stations and some National Rail ticket offices, as well as TfL Travel Information Centres.

LONDON UNDERGROUND ANNOUNCES PLAN FOR NEW DISTRICT LINE TIMETABLE

29 March 2011

To improve the reliability of the District Line, it has been announced that a new timetable will be introduced in December 2011 to deal with the issues associated with bottlenecks in the Earl's Court area. To simplify the service, reduce delays and boost services to the Wimbledon branch, which is the busiest section of the District Line, London Underground proposes to withdraw weekday (Monday to Friday) services to Kensington (Olympia), which carry less than one percent of District Line passengers. This will enable LU to re-route services to the Wimbledon branch, which sees nearly 30 percent of District Line traffic, by providing five extra trains during the morning peak, which equates to an increase of 12 percent. The Olympia service will still operate during the weekend, and LU plans to operate special services to serve major weekday events at the Olympia exhibition centre.