

Bold new vision for crossing the Thames

More than a dozen new tunnels and bridges are being proposed in plans to transform cross-river travel in the capital.

THE Mayor unveiled the schemes this week as part of his vision for the future of London. Together, the new crossings will bring massive road improvements for everyone wanting to cross the Thames – pedestrians, cyclists, road users and public transport users.

The 13 new schemes, from Fulham in the west to Dartford in the east, will support the needs of London's rapidly growing population, which is set to rise from 8.6million now to 10million by 2030. In particular, it would increase the number of river crossings between Imperial Wharf and Dartford by more than a third.



By making travel across the Thames easier, it will also help to unlock the city's full

potential, supporting thousands of new jobs and homes, driving economic

growth and ensuring that London competes with other global cities.

TfL has now launched a consultation on two of the schemes which would improve connections between east and southeast London – a crossing at Gallions Reach, linking Thamesmead and Beckton, and at Belvedere, linking Belvedere to Rainham. People are being asked for their views on possible public transport links.

Vehicles are expected to be charged for using the crossings to help pay for the schemes. Both crossings could be open by 2025, subject to funding.

Mayor Boris Johnson MP said: 'Building a series of new bridges and tunnels across the Thames is essential for the future prosperity of our rapidly-growing city. By creating more links between the north and south of the river, we won't just improve day-to-day travelling across the capital, we'll unlock areas for development and create thousands of jobs and homes.'

■ Have your say by visiting www.consultations.tfl.gov.uk/rivercrossings/east-of-silvertown

Heading home for the festive period?

Be in the know about any planned works and service changes, particularly between Thursday 24 December and Sunday 3 January, with our travel updates. Search TfL Festive



Elephant and Castle changes gather pace

A £25million investment by TfL means the notorious Elephant and Castle junction will return to two-way traffic for the first time in 50 years from this Sunday.

The roundabout, which has seen more than 80 collisions since 2012, will be removed, marking the first milestone in plans to make the area safer for all road users. Space created by removing the

roundabout will be made into a new accessible public area.

Other improvements include replacing subways with new pedestrian crossings, allowing people to cross directly, easily and safely. There will also be new dedicated cycle routes created through and around the junction to make it safer for cyclists.

Chief operating officer of surface

transport Garrett Emerson said: 'The return of two-way traffic to Elephant and Castle will help rejuvenate the area. An attractive peninsula and safer roads for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians will help transform this area into a place where people want to be.'

■ Visit tfl.gov.uk/elephant

Tweet your Overground questions

HAVE a question about London Overground services? Join a Twitter chat this afternoon between 12pm and 1pm as Mike Stubbs, director of London Overground, and Dave

Wornham, customer services director of Overground rail operator LOROL, will be answering questions.

■ Tweet questions to @LDNOverground using the hashtag #askOverground

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