

Cyclists get new Cycle Superhighways

London's flagship 'Crossrail for bikes' is to open next month and will become the longest, substantially segregated city cycle route in Europe.

FROM May, cyclists will be able to travel from Westminster to Blackfriars, the City, Tower Hill, Canary Wharf and Barking, a distance of around 12 miles. The route will be on entirely traffic-free segregated tracks or along low-traffic streets.

Mayor Boris Johnson MP made the announcement this week, exactly three years to the day since the launch of his 'cycling vision'. He also released new figures showing that central London's first segregated superhighway, opened six months ago at Vauxhall, has seen a 73 per cent increase in cycling since the road was converted.

As part of the new cycle scheme, Blackfriars will become an important interchange. From there, riders will soon be able to pick up the

new traffic-free, North-South Superhighway to Southwark and Elephant and Castle, and use quiet link roads to reach the substantially traffic-free, upgraded Cycle Superhighway 2 that runs to Whitechapel, Stepney, Bow and Stratford.

The 'Crossrail' cycle section from Westminster to Hyde Park Corner, Lancaster Gate and Paddington is currently under construction and will open later. The north-south section through Ludgate Circus will open this summer.

The Mayor said: 'In 2013 I stood on this very spot on the Embankment and promised that we would soon behold a magnificent cycle superhighway. Many doubted it would ever get beyond the artist's impression.

A noisy minority fought hard to stop it happening.

'But, in opinion polls and public consultations, large majorities of ordinary Londoners, most of them not cyclists, said they wanted this project and what it represents for a cleaner, safer, greener city.

'I apologise to motorists temporarily inconvenienced by the construction works on the Embankment, and I thank them for their patience in putting up with it - but the end is now in sight.'

Last month, TfL traffic figures showed that 3,394 cyclists a day now use Vauxhall Bridge at peak times. This represents a 73 per cent increase in riders compared with two years ago, before the track opened.

Over the same period, cycling generally increased in London by ten per cent. Around 81 per cent of riders use cycle tracks, with figures rising to 93 per cent during the evening peak.



Traffic information for the capital

A24 Balham Hill
March 12, 8am to March 13, 6pm
Temporary signals at the junction of Oldridge Road for utility works.

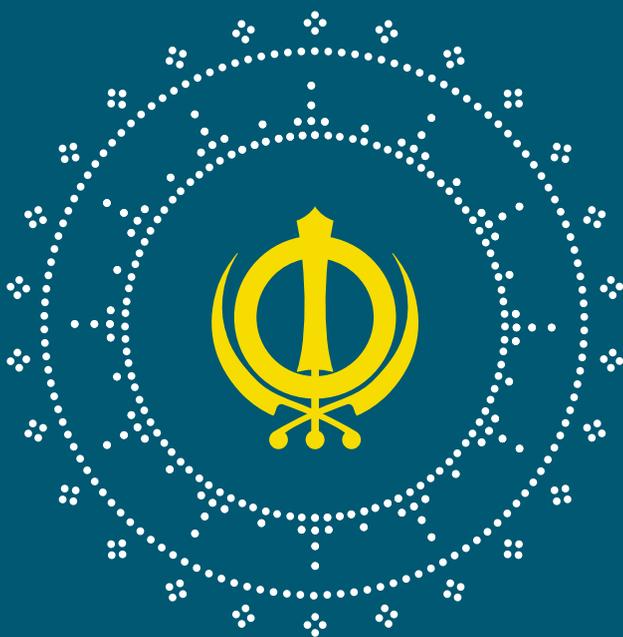
Westminster area
March 12, midday to 5pm
A group will form at Paddington Green and proceed to Whitehall via Edgware Road, Oxford Street, Piccadilly Circus, Pall Mall and Trafalgar Square.

Twickenham Stadium
March 12, 1pm to 10pm
Heavy traffic and large crowds expected for the England v Wales Six Nations rugby match. Kick-off is 4pm.

A406 North Circular Road
March 13, 5am to March 25, 10pm
Lane closures at the junction of Brentfield Road/Drury Way for junction improvement works.

Central London
March 13, 6am to 10pm
Road closures around Piccadilly, Shaftesbury Avenue, Haymarket, Regent Street, Trafalgar Square and Whitehall for the annual St Patrick's Day parade.

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