

# Transformation for Vauxhall Tube

A CONTRACTOR has now been appointed for a £36million modernisation of Vauxhall station over the next few years, increasing capacity and improving accessibility.

While work takes place to provide customers with step-free access, the station will remain open.

To create more space for the expected 40 per cent increase in people using the station over the next few years, the ticket hall will be completely reconfigured. The new layout will see more ticket gates and wide-aisle gates,



allowing disabled passengers and those with buggies or heavy luggage

to travel more easily, as well as reducing congestion.

The station's subways and stairways will also be refurbished, and a lift installed between the ticket hall and Underground platforms. Along with the existing lift between the bus station and

Tube ticket hall, this will provide step-free access to the Victoria line platforms.

The improvement work is part of Transport for London's wider plans to transform the Battersea Nine Elms area to support economic growth, including around 25,000

new jobs and 16,000 new homes.

David Waboso, London Underground's capital programmes director, said: 'Careful thought has been given to the environmental impact of the works and how we can reduce costs.'

'The lift shaft will be constructed from below ground level at the side of the ticket hall to minimise the disturbance in the surrounding area. In addition, the shaft and connecting tunnels will be constructed using sprayed concrete lining techniques, which reduces the amount of excavated materials and associated haulage. This has already produced significant savings in both utility diversions and construction costs.'

The cost of the work has been reduced by more than £9million, from £45million to £36million, owing to the more cost-effective construction methods.

London Underground has awarded the contract to Bechtel Ltd. Construction will start next year and is expected to finish in late 2015.

## Record-breaking week for buses

ALMOST 50 million bus journeys were made in just one week in the capital earlier this year – the highest number since before 1960.

There are now as many bus journeys being made in London each week as in the rest of England combined.

Around 2.3 billion journeys are made on London's buses each year – 60 per cent above 2000 levels. With the capital's population expected to rise by one million over the next ten years, this is expected to increase.

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, said: 'London's buses are the backbone of the capital's transport system, and every day as many bus journeys are made in London as the rest of the country combined. That underlines the huge importance of continued investment in the bus network as London's population continues to grow.'



'Without the efficient movement of people that the network allows, London could simply not function as it does – driving the UK economy as it emerges from recession.'

'As we invest we are not only keeping London moving but are also stimulating jobs and growth around the country as businesses across the land build, service and maintain the various vehicles and components that comprise our

clean, green and accessible fleet.'

Record levels of ridership are being seen across all parts of the capital's transport network as the city's population grows. London Underground's end of year (2012/13) figures show that 1.229 billion passenger journeys were made – a five per cent increase on 2011/12. Broadly as many journeys are made by Tube each day as the rest of the National Rail network combined.

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