

Stop and shop parking



THE amount of time people can park in 'stop and shop' bays across the capital could be increased from 20 to 30 minutes.

Transport for London (TfL) has launched a consultation asking Londoners for their opinions about the proposals. It is hoped the changes will help revitalise high streets, provide a boost for small businesses and provide more flexibility for people who wish to park and shop, pay a bill or run an errand.

The plans would affect around 600 parking bays on TfL's red route network – which covers 580km of major roads in the capital. They make up just five per cent of London's roads but carry more than 30 per cent of its traffic. TfL also manages and maintains 13 major road tunnels, more than 140 roadside electronic message boards (Variable Message Signs) and all of London's 6,000 traffic signals.

Sue Terpilowski, the London chairman of the Federation of Small Businesses, said: 'This sensible measure will enable more customers to shop locally and enable small businesses to compete with 'free to park' out of town shopping centres.'

'We urge councils in London to think about how their parking decisions impact on the local economy, thus, creating parking policies, strategies and an evidence base which is appropriate in the current economic climate.'

The consultation will run in 19 London boroughs until September 16, after which a final decision on implementing the proposals will be made.

Mayor Boris Johnson, said: 'Parking is a big concern for businesses and retailers in London. By extending the length of time that drivers can park at more than 600 locations, we can make it easier for Londoners to shop locally and, crucially, boost trade in our high streets and the economy in the process.'

■ Visit tfl.gov.uk/consultations for more information

Transport at a glance

Travelcards Oyster switch

OVERGROUND paper season tickets and Travelcards are being dropped next month as pre-paid fares switch to Oyster.

From September 15, all 7 Day or longer period Travelcards will only be available at Oyster Online or at Transport for London-operated Overground ticket offices.

Existing paper cards will be valid until their expiry date.

Customers choosing to sign up for Oyster Online will be able to

buy or renew their cards whenever they wish, top-up pay as you go and receive weekly and monthly email statements.

Having an Oyster card means passengers can add credit to pay as you go journeys outside the zones covered by a Travelcard, so there is no need for a paper ticket extension. It is more convenient and saves time.

■ Go to tfl.gov.uk/oyster to find out more

Stay hydrated on the Tube

WITH another hot spell heading this way, ethical brand Belu has given Transport for London more than 40,000 bottles of water to hand out to Tube customers at some of the capital's busiest stations.

Belu give all of their profits to the WaterAid charity, and have committed to donating £1m by 2020. WaterAid will be holding collections over the coming weeks at stations across the Tube network.

MetroTravel's beat the heat tips:

- Carry a bottle of water
- Don't board a train or bus if you feel unwell
- If you feel unwell, get off at the next stop and seek help from Tube staff
- Avoid pulling the passenger alarm between stations - help can be more easily obtained at the platform

Bus boost for East Village



A health centre at the heart of the new neighbourhood on the site of the London 2012 athletes village is to get a bus service in time for its opening this autumn.

Route 339 will start serving Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park from the end of this month, with

stops situated outside the Sir Ludwig Guttman Health and Wellbeing Centre on Liberty Bridge Road.

The service will be routed from Celebration Avenue via Liberty Bridge Road, Leyton Road and Temple Mills Lane to Crownfield Road.

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 24 hour travel information
0343 222 1234*

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London Travelwatch
London's transport watchdog
call 020 3176 2999, or visit
www.londontravelwatch.org.uk

*Service and network charges apply.
See tfl.gov.uk/terms for details.

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