

# Bus schemes get the green light



**Bus passengers are set to benefit from fewer delays to their journeys with more than 100 new bus priority schemes.**

OWING to a fast-rising population and a construction boom across the capital, TfL is investing heavily in helping buses get through congested areas quicker and more reliably. In total, £200million is being spent on the new schemes, which include changes to road layouts and junctions as well as small alterations to routes so that buses can avoid

traffic hotspots.

The improvements will be in place by April and will benefit passengers on 24 routes in 17 London boroughs at locations across the city.

The latest scheme, in Battersea, allows route 156 buses to make a right turn travelling north on Queenstown Road into Battersea Park Road. This will reduce average journey times by around a minute-and-a-half in each direction in the morning and evening peaks, benefiting around 800,000 passengers a year.

TfL's director of buses Mike Weston said: 'To ensure that the bus network remains reliable and efficient, we are investing £200million in modernising roads across the capital so that bus passengers can avoid potential delays to their journeys. Fifty schemes were completed last year and there are dozens more that will be completed over the next few months, ensuring that bus journeys are as quick and easy as possible.'

## Even more improvements

- A scheme in Erith will enable buses to turn across a dual carriageway rather than having to drive an extra kilometre to turn around at a roundabout. It will save passengers time, fuel and wear and tear on the route's buses, while reducing emissions
- Route 274 buses will be able to turn right near Camden Road station, reducing the distance buses have to travel and speeding up journey times
- A new 500metre bus lane in Plumstead will improve journey times for passengers travelling on a number of westbound routes towards Woolwich

## Lorry drivers learn the safety code

AROUND 20,000 UK licensed HGV drivers have now taken TfL's Safe Urban Driving course to learn how to share the roads safely with others.

The programme, created by TfL in 2011, is the first accredited course in the country to include on-road cycle training for the lorry drivers and gives them a vulnerable road user's perspective of the road. It is hoped this will help change driver attitudes towards cyclists and pedestrians and improve road safety.

The course has become such a success that TfL is expecting to train another 4,000 drivers this year.

Leon Daniels, TfL's managing director of surface transport, said: 'We're helping create a safer generation of lorry drivers – and protect vulnerable road users – by having trained 20,000 people who drive these vital but intimidating vehicles.'

'Our Safe Urban Driving course promotes more consideration for others while out on the road.'

'I've been on this course and know how eye-opening and important it is. We want all lorry drivers operating in London to take part in this type of training and express our thanks to those who already have.'

More than 1,400 drivers in Hammersmith and Fulham alone have already attended the course.



## Sign up for safety

Safe Urban Driving makes it easy for councils, developers and businesses to ensure their suppliers use the safest drivers.

The course satisfies one of TfL's Work Related Road Risk contractual requirements. By checking their supply chain is employing HGV drivers who have completed the training, it is an effective way for organisations to reduce the risk of their suppliers being involved in serious collisions.

**■ The Safe Urban Driving course is available across the UK. Accredited operators within the Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme can book a place on a training course at [fors-online.org.uk](https://fors-online.org.uk)**

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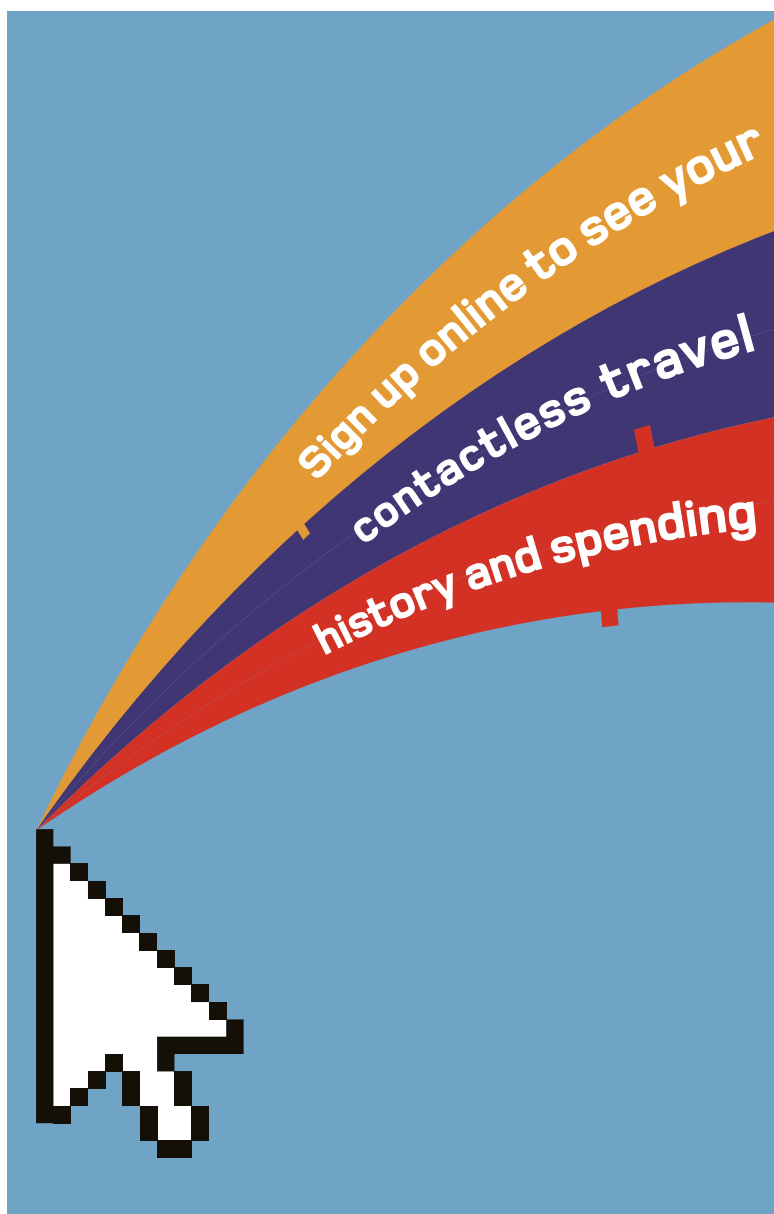
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