

Tunnelling breakthrough for Crossrail

CROSSRAIL'S 26-mile tunnelling marathon came to an end with the breakthrough of tunnel boring machines at Farringdon last week.

Now the focus will switch to fitting everything out. This will include new stations at Paddington, Bond Street, Tottenham Court Road, Farringdon, Liverpool Street, Whitechapel, Canary Wharf, Custom House, Woolwich and Abbey Wood.

Construction is also advancing on the ten new Crossrail stations and on works above ground west of Paddington and east of Stratford. Surface works in outer London,



Prime Minister David Cameron and Mayor Boris Johnson celebrate the completion of Crossrail's tunnels.

Berkshire and Essex are one third complete and, as of last month, TFL

has started operating rail services between Liverpool Street and Shenfield in Essex – the northeast

tip of the project. London's transport commissioner Sir Peter Hendy CBE said:

'The end of tunnelling marks an impressive milestone in construction. When Crossrail fully opens it will provide much needed new transport links and capacity, helping to support London's continued economic growth and meet the demands of our rapidly growing population. It is vital that we maintain such investment to meet the challenges of the future.'

When complete, the 100km route will run from Reading and Heathrow in the west to Shenfield and Abbey Wood in the east, passing beneath the heart of central London. The first services through central London will start in late 2018.

Cycle safety trial is a world-first

A PIONEERING new trial to detect cyclists at junctions has begun in London.

Initially taking place along Cable Street on Cycle Superhighway 3 in East London, the new technology will detect the number of cyclists travelling along a route. Traffic signals will then be adjusted to give more 'green' time when there are large numbers of cyclists at junctions during peak times.

The trials are testing two types of new technology – one radar-based and one thermal-based – that detects heat from riders. TfL will carry out three more trials to test both with different junction designs.

The trials build on technology used as part of London's sophisticated traffic signalling system, which manages traffic across the city on a second-by-second basis.

■ These trials are part of TfL's Road Modernisation Plan. Find out more at tfl.gov.uk/roads

Crossrail in numbers:

- **£14.8billion:** will be spent on the new railway
- **62million+:** working hours spent on the project so far
- **10,000:** people currently working on the railway
- **84,300:** jobs supported last year across the UK through TfL's investment programme and Crossrail
- **200million:** annual passengers expected to use the service after it opens in 2018
- **£42billion:** the railway's estimated benefit to the UK economy

Thank for you for giving to the Nepal appeal collection

COLLECTIONS carried out at Tube stations for victims of the Nepal earthquake have now raised more than £125,000.

The money was collected by Underground staff and the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) at stations across the network.

DEC and its partners will now use it to help more than half-a-million people affected by the earthquake by providing emergency shelter, food, clean water and blankets.

Once urgent needs are met, they will work with individuals, families

and communities to help them rebuild their lives.

The 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal on April 25, affecting at least 8million people and leaving many homeless. Nepal's capital Kathmandu and other major cities have been badly damaged and many rural areas have been cut off by avalanches. More than £65million has been given to the Nepal appeal to date.

■ To find out more, go online to www.dec.org.uk

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