

# Oxford Street plans given widespread support

Proposals would transform the street and surrounding area into an unrivalled place to live, work and visit.

THE recent public consultation by Westminster City Council and TfL, which proposed a new traffic-free area between Orchard Street and Oxford Circus to coincide with the launch of the Elizabeth line, saw 64 per cent of responses in support of plans in some form. The residents, families and community around Oxford Street were at the centre of thinking for the improvements which address

some of the very serious issues of poor road safety and air quality on and around the street.

TfL and Westminster City Council are now considering all the issues raised by the huge response to the consultation before Westminster Council takes any further decision on how to proceed.

The issues raised include traffic and air quality on residential roads, provision of a safe cycle route through the wider area, management of the public space and ensuring that Oxford Street remains accessible for all.

Alex Williams, director of city planning at TfL, said: 'The introduction of the Elizabeth line later this year will significantly increase the number of people walking along Oxford Street and this creates a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to transform the area into an unrivalled place to live, visit and work.'

'The results of this consultation show that there is a strong desire to improve the West End and make Oxford Street more pedestrian focused. All points raised in the consultation

are being considered and we continue to work with Westminster City Council ahead of a final decision on the scheme later this year.'

## Getting ready

A range of work is already under way in the surrounding area to prepare for the launch of the Elizabeth line in December 2018, which will bring as many as 40 per cent more visitors to Oxford Street.

Public realm works around the new Elizabeth line Bond Street station on Davies Street will begin next month. This will include wider footways and a raised junction in front of the entrance to accommodate the expected increase in pedestrian flows. The area will also be decluttered and new cycle stands, 'Legible London' signage and lighting will be installed.

■ To view the full consultation, visit [tfl.gov.uk/oxford-street](http://tfl.gov.uk/oxford-street)



Next steps: the proposals would help to improve road safety and air quality

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## Traffic information for the capital

For a full list of traffic information, go to [tfl.gov.uk/trafficnews](http://tfl.gov.uk/trafficnews)

### Constitution Hill Until April 15

Road closed in both directions between Hyde Park Corner and The Mall for roadworks. Temporary traffic lights will be in place at the Hyde Park Corner junction.

### Central London area Today, midday until 5pm

Various roads will be closed for a march from Malet Street to Westminster Central Hall. Roads affected include Russell Square, Southampton Row, Kingsway, Aldwych, Strand, Trafalgar Square, Whitehall and Parliament Square.

### Albert Embankment Saturdays and Sundays, 6am to 10pm, until April 1

The road will be closed at weekends only between Lambeth Bridge and Tinworth Street for a crane operation.

### Westminster area

#### Saturday, 11am until 7pm

Two marches in the area mean that various roads will be closed. The first demonstration will run from Portland Place to Parliament Square via Regent Street, Piccadilly Circus, Haymarket and Trafalgar Square. The second march will be from Paddington Green to Richmond Terrace, through Edgware Road, Oxford Street, Regent Street and Whitehall.

### Twickenham Stadium

#### Saturday, midday until 7pm

The final round of games of the 6 Nations will see England take on Ireland at Twickenham (kick-off 2.45pm). The area will be busy before and after the game with some road closures, including London Road, Whitton Road and Rugby Road. Diversions will be in place around the Twickenham area.

## Last chance to get on board

WOULD-BE apprentices have until midnight on Sunday to apply for this year's TfL apprenticeship schemes.

There are more than 170 positions to choose from across 25 different schemes, with options including engineering, project management, finance and technology.

There are also level six apprenticeships available, which enable students to gain degree qualifications in areas such as civil engineering or commercial property surveying.

Successful candidates will start in September and will benefit from extensive training and development opportunities, as well as a competitive rewards package.

■ To apply online by Sunday, March 18, visit [tfl.gov.uk/apprentices](http://tfl.gov.uk/apprentices)

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