

Major changes to make King's Cross safer

Radical plans to transform the King's Cross area have been given the thumbs up by the public.

INITIAL proposals, which include changing the road network, removing the gyratory and improving facilities for pedestrians and cyclists, were supported by 70 per cent of respondents in a consultation held earlier this year.

The plans were developed by TfL and Islington and Camden councils, who are now considering all the views expressed and working on detailed proposals. These will go to consultation next year.

The aim of the scheme is to:

- Remove the gyratory and introduce two-way



An artist's impression of Lighthouse corner, King's Cross

traffic, creating a simple road network and reducing journey times

- Introduce new, safer crossings for pedestrians and cyclists, with contra-flow cycle lanes
- Reduce traffic on some residential streets to make it more pleasant for people living, working or passing through the area

Deputy Mayor for Transport, Val Shawcross said: 'The area around King's Cross is used by thousands of visitors, business people and local residents every day, and I'm delighted that plans for further improvements to the gyratory have such positive support from people who responded to the consultation.'

'We must now look at all the consultation responses in close detail and work with the local community to ensure that everyone who uses the gyratory benefits from the changes. Given our bold plans to make cycling and walking easier across London, it's particularly important the scheme connects up with other new transport infrastructure like the extension of the North-South Cycle Superhighway.'

The detailed plans will take account of other major schemes and improvements happening in the area, including the extension of the North-South Cycle Superhighway between Stonecutter Street and King's Cross, and borough cycling schemes as part of the Quietway and Central London Grid programmes.

Leon Daniels, Managing Director of Surface Transport at TfL, said: 'We are working with the local community and the boroughs of Camden and Islington

to provide a road network that supports the dramatic improvement of the King's Cross area. Together we will work on the detailed plans to create a modern road network which encourages more walking and cycling and improves pedestrian crossing points.'

Traffic information for the capital

Blackheath Until September 12, 8pm

Hare and Billet Road closed between Mounts Pond Road and Wat Tyler Road for the staging of the two-day Blackheath festival. Other local road closures expected between 9.30pm and 11.30pm to help crowds leaving the event.

Wembley Stadium September 10, 3pm to midnight

Large crowds and heavy traffic expected in the area for a concert. Gates open at 4.30pm.

Hyde Park September 10, 11.30am to September 11, 11.30pm

Large crowds expected for the weekend concerts and Park Lane, between Marble Arch and Hyde Park Corner, may be closed to help people leave (10pm - 11.30pm Saturday; 9.30pm - 11pm, Sunday).

The Piccadilly underpass will also be closed for weekend works.

Westminster area
September 11, 3am to 11pm
Extensive road closures for Stage 8 of the Tour of Britain including Regent Street, parts of Piccadilly, Trafalgar Square and its approaches, Whitehall and Strand. Waterloo Bridge will also be closed. Most roads will be open by 7pm.

Hackney
September 11, 8am to 10pm
Local roads closed for the Hackney Carnival, which will follow a circular route from Ridley Road via Dalston Lane and Richmond Road. Once the parade has passed, the roads will be reopened.

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