

Driving up standards for taxis and private hire

Mayor Sadiq Khan has announced plans to protect London's iconic black cabs and improve standards in the private hire industry.



THE Taxi and Private Hire Action Plan, which was launched alongside TfL, includes measures to support licensed taxi drivers, enhance public safety and improve London's air quality.

New technology will help passengers connect with taxis more quickly and easily, with taxi information being added to TfL's journey planner by next summer.

TfL will open 20 more bus lanes this year that can be used by taxis, while the number of taxi ranks will increase by 20 per cent over the next four years.

There are plans to make the black cab fleet the greenest in the world, with grants available for drivers to scrap older, more polluting vehicles, while funding will also be available for the first 9,000 Zero Emission Capable taxis.

A range of measures are being introduced to enhance public safety, including a formal English language requirement for all private hire drivers, who will also have to provide both driver and vehicle details to customers, including a photo, before the start of each journey.

Other new initiatives are now also under way, including quadrupling the number of on-street compliance officers, with 250 more on the streets by the middle of 2017.

By next summer, TfL will also require private hire drivers to pass an advanced driving test before they can be licensed or relicensed.

Mayor Sadiq Khan said: 'Our new Taxi and Private Hire Action Plan will help us deliver a truly world-class service for Londoners and create a vibrant taxi and

private hire market where all providers can continue to flourish.'

Helen Chapman, TfL's general manager of taxi and private hire, said: 'London's iconic taxi trade is famous around the world and is a fundamental part of our public transport system. We need to support it and also ensure standards in the private hire industry continue to rise so both trades can flourish.'

'Passengers deserve the very best, professional service when they choose to travel in either a taxi or a private hire vehicle.'

■ Visit tfl.gov.uk/taxis-and-minicabs for more information on taxis and private hire

Traffic information for the capital

For a full list of traffic information, go to tfl.gov.uk/trafficnews

Westminster area
September 15, 3am to September 15, 10.50pm

A centenary commemoration event involving a tank will take place in Trafalgar Square. Traffic will be held as it is escorted by police through Admiralty Arch to Horse Guards Parade.

Regent Street
September 17, 6am to September 18, 10pm

Regent Street will be closed northbound between Margaret Street and Cavendish Place while Thames Water carries out utility works.

A10 Bishopsgate (EC2)
September 16, 8pm to September 18, 8pm

Road closed northbound for works between Wormwood Street and Middlesex Street as Thames Water carries out emergency repairs of a leaking main.

Wandsworth Bridge Road
September 19, 8am to September 23, 8pm

Contraflow in place between Narborough Street and Friston Street for carriageway repairs.

West End Lane (B507)
September 17, 8am to September 19, 6am

Road closed between Quex Road and Iverson Road for urgent repairs to a broken water main.

London travel advice: plan your journey now

 tfl.gov.uk

 24 hour travel information
0343 222 1234*

 Sign up for email updates
tfl.gov.uk/emailupdates

   tfl.gov.uk/socialmedia

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.

 Newspapers left on the Tube can jam doors and cause delays to your journey. Take your newspaper with you or put it in a recycling bin.

The views expressed are those of TfL only and are not those of Metro.

Full service for Spurs' European night

ENGINEERING work on the Metropolitan line is being suspended tonight so that fans can travel to Wembley Stadium for the Champions League match between Tottenham Hotspur and Monaco.

Trains will run as usual between Aldgate and Wembley Park, with early closures starting again from Monday.

More suspensions of the engineering work will take place later in the year when other events are held at Wembley Stadium, including all of Spurs' home Champions League fixtures.

Services on the line have been stopping at 10pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays for track and drainage work, which is set to continue until late 2018.



Photo: CosminIftode/Shutterstock.com

For more articles and to keep up to date with TfL announcements, visit tfl.gov.uk/news

The new Hopper fare has arrived



Two journeys for the price of one

The Mayor, Sadiq Khan, has launched the new Hopper fare.

Two journeys for £1.50 when you change bus or tram within one hour, using pay as you go on contactless or Oyster.

Always use the same card.