IT’S ALMOST TIME FOR THE ELIZABETH LINE

Now in its final stages, the Elizabeth line remains on track to open in the first half of 2022.

Last year, the project was operating timetabled train movements in the central operating section to build reliability and identify any issues.

For the programme to move into the trial operations phase, stations in the central section needed to hit certain levels of completion. Eight stations have since been handed over to TfL following successful testing and integration work.

Trial operations, to test the line’s readiness for passenger service, began in November 2020. These ensure that all systems and procedures work effectively. Completion of trial operations mark the final step before passenger services can commence.

The Elizabeth line will feature a fleet of 70 new 200-metre-long trains, equipped with regenerative braking – using up to 30 per cent less energy.

All 41 stations will be step-free to platform level, staffed from the first to the last train, with a ‘turn up and go’ service offered to anyone needing assistance.

It’s an archaeological goldmine which, through excavation work, has unearthed tens of thousands of items from 40 sites, spanning 55 million years of London’s history. Soon there will be a new railway running through the heart of the Capital.

KEEPING LONDON MOVING DURING THE BANK BLOCKADE

On 15 January, the Northern line (Bank branch) closed between Kennington and Moorgate until mid-May 2022 while vital works take place for the Bank station upgrade.

It’s a big disruption for Tube customers, but how did our teams in Surface rise to the challenge and help keep London moving?

At the end of 2020, the Strategic Operations team in Network Management began to identify potential disruption and ways to minimise the impact on customers.

Public Transport Service Planning carried out detailed pedestrian modelling to examine how displaced Underground passengers were likely to get to their destination.

They used this information, along with recommendations from the Equality Impact Assessments and the Independent Disability Advisory Group and road safety audits carried out by Engineering, to design new signage.

A temporary new bus route, the 733, is running from Kennington to Moorgate every 7-8 minutes, Monday-Friday, for the duration of the Bank closure. When completed, the upgrade will see capacity at Bank increased by 40 per cent, with improved step-free access and more space for customers.
One of the things Chris Cook, a visually impaired customer, Disability Equality Trainer and self-confessed transport ‘geek’, says we should do when helping customers is to introduce ourselves.

He told us: ‘When staff say who they are and where they work, it’s such a great help to visually impaired people. A simple “Hi, I’m Chris. I’m station staff, can I help you today?”’

Chris jokes: ‘Ideally followed by, “can I buy you a beer?”’

These little actions go a long way with customers who need extra help on the network. With more people coming back to the Capital, it’s important we think about the quality of our support.

Have you heard of the ‘social model of disability’? Developed by disabled people over the last 40 years, the model explains how people are disabled by barriers in society, not by their difference.

These barriers can be physical, such as a lack of lifts or accessible toilets, or caused by attitudes to difference that perpetuate prejudice, discrimination and exclusion in society.

We do a fantastic job helping disabled customers, but travelling on our network can be challenging. Faulty lifts, disruptions, delays and a lack of information can make a difficult journey impossible.

The work needs to be done while maintaining safety and traffic flow,’ says Michael, ‘but I’m trying to ensure the community is also considered. We all need to be more empowered to highlight issues and report them. Every journey matters.’

SUDBURY HILL GOES STEP-FREE

Sudbury Hill on the Piccadilly line is the latest London Underground (LU) station to go step-free.

It has been fitted with two lifts and improved signage, giving customers step-free access from street to platform level. Customer Service colleagues will deploy manual boarding ramps to assist customers who use wheelchairs. These new lifts will help people with accessibility needs, those travelling with heavy luggage and customers with buggies.

Sudbury Hill is the 90th LU station to go step-free.

NEW EXHIBITION

LEGACIES: LONDON TRANSPORT’S CARIBBEAN WORKFORCE EXHIBITION AT LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM

The London Transport Museum has opened a brand new exhibition, celebrating the contribution people of Caribbean descent have made to London’s transport history and present-day.

Visitors will be able to uncover stories and memories from first-, second- and third-generation Caribbean people. From those who worked for London Transport in the 1950s and 1960s, to today’s employees. New films, archive images, historic advertising posters, and never-before-displayed objects will be on show.

From 1956 to 1970, London Transport recruited around 6,000 employees directly from British colonies in the Caribbean. The exhibition also documents the struggles these individuals and their families endured, especially at the start of their new lives in the Capital.

The Museum is collaborating with an Advisory Board of TFL staff of Caribbean heritage, who have helped shape the content of the exhibition, and would like to thank them for their enthusiasm, ideas and invaluable feedback.

The Museum would also like to thank the TFL Raising Awareness of Culture and Ethnicity (RACE) Staff Network Group who have generously shared their resources and expertise and provided valuable input into the exhibition.

Head to ttmuseum.co.uk/legacies for more information.

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PRIDE ON DISPLAY

LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM FEATURES TFL PRIDE ROUNDEL DISPLAY

To celebrate LGBT+ History month, the London Transport Museum has launched a digital display on its first floor in Covent Garden, showcasing TFL Pride roundels. The collection will be on show until Friday 1 April 2022.

The display features five roundels designed by TFL colleagues as well as five by prominent figures in the LGBTQ+ London community: London’s Night Czar, Amy Lamé; broadcaster and historian, Tim Dunn; activist and campaigner, Marc Thompson; designer and creator of the ‘La’ T-shirt, Philip Normal; and historian, Night Czar, as five by prominent figures in the show until Friday 1 April 2022.

The collection will be on display on its first floor in London Transport Museum.

FONDLY REMEMBERED

Priscilla’s arms in hospital, after a long illness, exacerbated by the coronavirus. Curly worked in various roles at several garages, starting at Neasden in 1962 in the canteen. He became an apprentice mechanic at Chiswick, then a bus driver at Middle Row, Westbourne Park and Shepherd’s Bush, where he also worked as a conductor. Curly loved that work and made others happy too – colleagues and customers alike. He received his Long Service award at Syon Park and worked 29 years and nine months with London United. He will be deeply missed by his wife Priscilla and the many friends to whom he brought joy and laughter.

Bert Waters, 96, died on 16 December 2021. Bert was a bus conductor for over 32 years, working out of Upton Park bus garage between the 1970s and 1990s. Derek Hamilton was her driver in 1972 and remained a friend.

Joy Geeves, 80, died at home in December 2021. Joy worked as a ‘clippy’ (a bus conductor) on bus route 16 from Upton Park bus garage between the 1970s and 1990s. Derek Hamilton was her driver in 1972 and remained a friend.

Modeste Dalan (Curly), also known as ‘Curly’, 80, from St Lucia, died on 9 December 2020. He was in his loving wife Priscilla’s arms in hospital, after a long illness, exacerbated by the coronavirus. Curly worked in various roles at several garages, starting at Neasden in 1962 in the canteen. He became an apprentice mechanic at Chiswick, then a bus driver at Middle Row, Westbourne Park and Shepherd’s Bush, where he also worked as a conductor. Curly loved that work and made others happy too – colleagues and customers alike. He received his Long Service award at Syon Park and worked 29 years and nine months with London United. He will be deeply missed by his wife Priscilla and the many friends to whom he brought joy and laughter.

Leonard (Len) Dumphy, 77, sadly passed away on 26 October 2020. Len joined London Transport in 1984 as a Guard and later became a Train Operator. He spent most of his 30 year career working on the Bakerloo line and was extremely proud of being part of the London Underground service. Len was an active member of his union and was proactive in defending and supporting the rights of others. This was reflected after he retired, when he liked to keep abreast of events and attend branch meetings. Len was well liked amongst his colleagues and was known for his sense of humour. He was a much loved husband, father and friend.

There’s a nip in the air

Weather stations and local ground conditions. On the highways, it’s about identifying any action needed and keeping stakeholders informed. If temperatures are forecast to go below zero, we issue instructions to treat from midnight and advise how much grit to use.

What are the biggest winter challenges you’ve faced? The winters that stick in my mind are around 2010-2012 when we had such heavy snowfall that the A40 was completely closed and people were having snowball fights on the carriageway.

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Please send a paragraph about a person who has passed away to OTMPensioners@tfl.gov.uk

BREAKING THE CENTRAL LINE FREE OF FAILURES

Our teams across Asset Performance and Capital Delivery (APCD) are always on the lookout for new technology to improve our standards.

Built in the late 1960s, our DC switchboard at Holborn substation is one of the oldest across London Underground (LU). Its heavy mechanical design and low current rating means it has struggled to cope with the Central Line load demand.

Despite several interventions over the years, a catastrophic failure has always been a risk. The solution? A hybrid circuit breaker was created, capable of handling double the original rated current by mounting a 6000 Amp circuit breaker on to a stripped-down version of the original 3000 Amp frame.

Step forward Przemyslaw Paisecki (Sam) and Lee Sadler who started working on the concept over three years ago, when they were apprentices.

Sam and Lee’s prototype was tested at North Ealing before being transported by train to be installed at Holborn.

The official emblem design for The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee is based on an original illustration drawn by Edward Roberts, a 19-year-old student at the University of Leeds. Young creatives were challenged to sum up The Queen’s 70-year reign with their artistic skills. Edwards’ simple design reflects The Queen’s continuous service and was selected by a judging panel of industry experts. The continuous platinum line reveals a stylised profile of Her Majesty’s arms in hospital, after a long illness, exacerbated by the coronavirus. Curly worked in various roles at several garages, starting at Neasden in 1962 in the canteen. He became an apprentice mechanic at Chiswick, then a bus driver at Middle Row, Westbourne Park and Shepherd’s Bush, where he also worked as a conductor. Curly loved that work and made others happy too – colleagues and customers alike. He received his Long Service award at Syon Park and worked 29 years and nine months with London United. He will be deeply missed by his wife Priscilla and the many friends to whom he brought joy and laughter.

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any companies now get their goods delivered by cargo bike, and the construction industry is getting involved too. Michael Barrett from Strategic Operations talks about running cargo bike trials to reduce the impact from construction on London’s road users, communities and the environment.

WHO’S SUPPORTING THE TRIALS?
A number of teams, including Transport Innovation, Project and Programme Delivery, Area Planning and the Freight team.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE TRIALS?
The aim is for contractors to purchase their own cargo bikes, but another option is to use third-party companies to make deliveries.

HOW WILL THEY BENEFIT LONDON?
There are approximately 221,000 delivery vans in London and 39 per cent of these are driving less than a quarter full.

More cargo bikes and fewer vans on the road will cut congestion by moving freight into cycle lanes. This helps with bus journey times, creates safer roads, lowers the number of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) and means less pollution.

SAY CHEESE
Metropolitan line Signal Operator Jason Hill shares his recent art, featuring the network in a fun light. Each piece is incredibly detailed and created using pastel, pencil and pigment ink pen.

Jason has been exhibiting his artwork around London for over 10 years and illustrating for even longer. I remember receiving a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles comic at about seven or eight and becoming entranced with the artwork of Kevin Eastman and Peter Laird. This was about the time I started drawing characters and stories of my own.


You can find Jason’s five-star book A Tale of Two Flies on Amazon and his other pieces via Instagram @jasonalexhill.
PENSIONERS’ FORUM SUMMARY – 10 FEBRUARY

This was another online meeting when reps from the Pensioner bodies met TfL and the Pension Fund. We hope to be able to meet face-to-face at the next full meeting, in May.

We had an update on the 2021 Actuarial Valuation of the Pension Fund: despite the continuing uncertainty in the future Government support for TfL, we expect the valuation results to be published by June as required. As reported in January, the valuation is likely to show an improvement in the financial position of the Public Sector Section since the 2018 valuation.

We also had a discussion of the Pensions Review, after the publication of the Interim Report. Pensioner representatives and others discussed the review with Sir Brendan Barber and Joanne Segars at a recent meeting. The final report, assessing four options (including the existing structure) is due at the end of March.

Staff Travel apologised for the late publication of the current Free and Privilege Travel Restrictions Guide, which should be on the TfL Staff Travel page by mid-February after delays caused by Covid restrictions.

We asked TfL (again) when pensioner groups will be able to meet in TfL buildings, and they promised to look into this.

ANNUAL PAYSLIPS/P60S

Your annual payslip, which will include your P60 for the 2021/22 tax year, is due to be issued by 30 April 2022. You can also view your P60 through our Pension Web Portal from 6 April 2022.

ANNUAL MEMBERS’ MEETING

This year’s Annual Members’ Meeting takes place on Friday 7 October 2022. We will be returning to One Great George Street, but will be running this as a hybrid meeting which means members unable to attend in person can join the meeting online. Further details will be published closer to the meeting date.

PENSION PAY DATES

- 14 Mar 2022
- 11 Apr 2022
- 09 May 2022
- 06 Jun 2022
- 04 Jul 2022
- 01 Aug 2022
- 30 Aug 2022
- 26 Sep 2022
- 24 Oct 2022
- 21 Nov 2022
- 19 Dec 2022
- 16 January 2023
- 13 February 2023
- 13 March 2023

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CONTACT DETAILS

Members of the pensions team are working at least two days a week in the office and the rest of the week from home. All numbers are being diverted and the team continues to take calls. This is reliant on the mobile phone network, and, at times, a weak signal can cause difficulties in getting through. The team can also be contacted via helpdesk@tflpensions.co.uk or, if you have registered, you can submit enquiries via the Pension Web Portal at pensions.tfl.gov.uk

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8