

Create a new bus for London



Mayor Boris Johnson and Transport for London (TfL) are calling on Londoners and aspiring designers from around the world to submit their ideas for a new iconic bus for the Capital.

A competition has been launched to attract creative concepts for a stylish, red double-decker that could carve its own niche in London's transport history.

There's a 'Design' category for professional-standard entries, with a class for 'whole-bus' submissions and another for single concepts or features. The top prize is an impressive £25,000 and there'll be two runner-up prizes of £10,000, as well as a number of merit awards.

A second 'Imagine' category encourages entrants of all ages to unleash their creativity. It is split into age groups varying from under-11s to over-18s, with a range of prizes available.

The Mayor said: 'I made a commitment during the election campaign to hold a competition to design a brand new bus for London, based on the much-missed Routemaster. This competition is the first step in making that commitment a reality.'

Key features that designers must consider include an open platform so passengers can board and alight easily, good use of interior space, accessibility and use of green technology. Of course, the bus must be red.

The deadline is 19 September and winners will be announced by the Mayor at the end of October. The winning entries, or design elements, will then be taken to the major bus manufacturers as part of a separate competitive tendering process – and the new bus could be hitting London's streets by 2012.

For full competition guidelines, plus terms and conditions, go to tfl.gov.uk/aneewbusforlondon

Safe and sound on London Overground

Ten London Overground stations have been awarded 'Secure Station' status by the Department for Transport.

The accreditation was given following a rigorous British Transport Police (BTP) assessment. It considered station design, management, crime statistics and feedback on how safe passengers felt.

When TfL took over the Overground network in November 2007, a survey revealed that almost a quarter of passengers believed the service was too dangerous to use. Since then, TfL has ensured that all stations are staffed during operating hours and has also launched a network-wide station upgrade programme.

As a result, a BTP survey found that almost 82 per cent of passengers now feel safer at the stations.

TfL will carry out further improvement works, which include station deep-cleans. It is hoped that 24 stations will be given the accreditation by the end of the year, and every one on the London Overground network will receive it by 2012.

Fast fact

The stations recognised are South Hampstead, West Hampstead, Hampstead Heath, Kilburn High Road, Acton Central, South Acton, Brondesbury, Walthamstow Queens Road, Caledonian Road & Barnsbury and Canonbury.



Roads now safer for the Capital's children

New figures announced by TfL show the number of children killed or seriously injured on London's roads has fallen to a record low.

In 2007, the number dropped 16 per cent from 392 to 331 – a 65 per cent reduction compared with the mid to late 1990s. It is the lowest rate for child casualties since records began in 1990.

Making life easier for the boroughs

London boroughs can now submit applications for Local Implementation Plan (LIP) funding to TfL through a new online portal.

The boroughs submit applications to TfL every year for LIP funding to invest in local projects that help deliver the Mayor's Transport Strategy. Before the

portal was developed, this was done via emails and spreadsheets – a time-consuming process as it covers around 2,500 schemes each year.

The high-tech tool, which went live on 23 June, also allows TfL and the boroughs to manage funding allocations, report progress on projects and make payments.

More Londoners are getting on their bikes

Latest figures show a massive 91 per cent increase in the number of people cycling on the Capital's major roads since TfL was created in 2000.

TfL estimates that more than 500,000 cycle journeys are now being made every day in London.

Between March 2007 and March 2008, cycling on London's major roads grew by 4.5 per cent. To continue supporting the increase, TfL and Mayor Boris Johnson have announced a further £55m in funding for the year. This is up from £36m last year, and a 10-fold increase on the £5.5m spent on cycling in 2000.



Cool news for Tube passengers this summer

London Underground has announced measures to lower temperatures on the Tube this summer.

Heat-busting innovations include:

- Fifty ventilation fans restored across the Underground network
- Installing 50 caged industrial-sized fans at key stations, and trialling ceiling-mounted fans

- Upgrading ventilation shafts on the Victoria line
- Using a 'mechanical chiller unit', like one in operation at Oxford Circus, to cool passengers in the ticket hall at Euston this year

In the long term, there are plans for air-conditioned trains on the Circle, District, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan lines. The first of these will be introduced in 2010.

Free travel announced for injured veterans

Injured war veterans in London will receive free travel on the Capital's transport network in recognition of their service to the country.

The free concession will come into force from 2 November for veterans – whether they are visitors or residents – who receive a pension

Fast fact

The concession will apply to buses, the Tube, trams, Docklands Light Railway (DLR) and London Overground services. Train operating companies have agreed that war veterans can travel free on services within Greater London (after 09:30, Monday to Friday).

under the War Pensions Scheme or the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme. This includes war widows and widowers and eligible dependents.



DLR works update

Works are well underway on the DLR to help meet expected passenger growth.

Platforms are being extended to enable three-carriage trains to operate from 2010, increasing capacity by 50 per cent. It means a number of service changes across the railway, including the temporary closure of Tower Gateway station until spring 2009, and reduced services between Lewisham and Crossharbour until 25 August.

For more information, go to tfl.gov.uk/dlr, call DLR Customer Services on 020 7363 9700 or email cservice@dlr.co.uk

Red route taxi trial to improve passenger safety

Mayor of London Boris Johnson has announced that all licensed taxis, and private hire vehicles with appropriate signage, can stop on red routes between 22:00 and 06:00 to let passengers safely use cash machines.

The change, which is being piloted for six months, will allow drivers to stop for up to five minutes. The Mayor has also asked TfL's Public Carriage Office to consider proposals to improve card payment arrangements in taxis.

Langdon Park DLR station up for prestigious award

Langdon Park DLR station has been shortlisted for this year's Prime Minister's Better Public Building Award.

The station in Tower Hamlets was opened in December last year on what was one of the longest gaps on the DLR network. It joins 21 other projects on the shortlist and the winner will be announced on 8 October.

Low Emission Zone phase two is now underway

The second phase of the London Low Emission Zone has now been launched. It means that diesel-engined lorries weighing more than 3.5 tonnes, plus buses and coaches, must meet the required emissions standard – Euro III for particulate matter – if they wish to continue driving in the Zone without paying a daily charge.

To find out more information, go to tfl.gov.uk/lezlondon or call 0845 607 0009.

For more information

Further details are available from: Group Government & Stakeholder Relations, Transport for London, Windsor House, 42-50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0TL. Telephone: 020 7126 4411 Email: gsr@tfl.gov.uk

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