

Via email: ble@tfl.gov.uk

Our ref: RB/BLE
Date: 05/12/2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Bakerloo Line Extension Consultation

I would like to begin by congratulating TfL on their efforts to publicise this consultation. I am aware that real effort has been made to ensure Londoners are aware of the process, with leaflets and posters at stations and good coverage in the media.

I strongly support the proposal to extend the Bakerloo Line to South East London, something that I have called for over many years both in my role as a Southwark councillor and now as a London Assembly member. South East London has for too long been poorly served by the Underground network, and while recent improvements such as the DLR and London Overground are very welcome, an extension to the Bakerloo Line would bring invaluable direct services to central London and regeneration opportunities for many areas.

The consultation document asks for respondents to indicate a preference for options 1a or 1b, serving Old Kent Road or the Camberwell area. I believe that both of these areas would benefit significantly from an extension of the Bakerloo line, both for connectivity into central London and in regeneration of the areas themselves. I therefore suggest that TfL seriously examines the possibility of pursuing both route options. Having two branches could help get maximum use of the spare capacity currently available on the central section of the line, and would provide extra resilience to disruptions. I am aware that building both branches would be more expensive, but believe there is scope for much of the cost to be recouped through developer contributions. I believe that the benefits of having two branches, both operationally and for the areas they serve, are such that this should be seriously considered by TfL.

Furthermore, I believe that Camberwell would benefit significantly from a new station on the existing line between Loughborough Junction and Elephant and Castle, irrespective of whether option 1b is chosen. As the consultation document shows, access to rail services in the Walworth Road area is poor. Historically both Walworth Road and Camberwell had stations on this line, and the reintroduction of one of these would improve access to the City.

I am encouraged by the potential of this project to provide extra services into central London from stations on the proposed route south of New Cross Gate. However, I would seek assurance that these extra services do not come at the expense of some existing services, and that residents in these areas will actually receive a significant net increase in the frequency of trains to central London.

I support the proposed extension to Bromley in principle, but would like to see further details of this proposal. I also believe that, while the extension to Bromley would certainly be beneficial, the first

priority for this project must be the inner London sections as these are the areas with the poorest access to rail services at present.

TfL should be alert to the extra pressure that the extension will put on the already overcrowded Bank branch of the Northern Line, and plan in advance for solutions to this problem. Whichever option (or options) is chosen, this pressure is inevitable as many commuters will seek to change at Elephant and Castle to travel to the City.

I was pleased to read in the consultation document that, because of the 'over-run' in the tunnels at Elephant and Castle, works could begin and proceed with relatively little disruption to existing services.

Overall I am strongly in favour of this extension. It is encouraging that the plans were mentioned in the Autumn Statement, and I look forward to the publication of a timescale for their further development.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Pidgeon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Caroline Pidgeon AM

Leader of the London Assembly Liberal Democrat Group

Chair, London Assembly Transport Committee

Deputy-Chair, London Assembly Police and Crime Committee