

MDA No.	1	1	9	7
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Title: How COVID-19 is Shaping Public Transport Provision

Executive Summary

The Transport Committee meeting on 22 July 2020 was used to discuss how COVID-19 is shaping public transport provision London's transport. At the meeting, the Committee resolved:

That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chair and party Group Lead Members, to agree any output from the meeting.

Following consultation with the Deputy Chair and party Group Lead Members, the Chair agreed a letter to Network Rail regarding the impact of COVID-19 on London's Transport Network, as attached at Appendix 1.

Decision

That the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chair and party Group Lead Members, agrees a letter to Network Rail regarding the impact of COVID-19 on London's Transport Network, as attached at Appendix 1.

Assembly Member

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in the proposed decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for elected Members of the Authority.

The above request has my approval.

Signature

Date 8 September 2020



Printed Name Dr Alison Moore AM (Chair, Transport Committee)

Decision by an Assembly Member under Delegated Authority

Notes:

1. *The Lead Officer should prepare this form for signature by relevant Members of the Assembly to record any instance where the Member proposes to take action under a specific delegated authority. The purpose of the form is to record the advice received from officers, and the decision made.*
2. **The 'background' section (below) should be used to include an indication as to whether the information contained in / referred to in this Form should be considered as exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). If so, the specimen Annexe (attached below) should be used. If this form does deal with exempt information, you must submit both parts of this form for approval together.**

Background and proposed next steps:

The Transport Committee meeting on 22 July 2020 was used to discuss how COVID-19 is shaping public transport provision London's transport. At the meeting, the Committee resolved:


That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chair and party Group Lead Members, to agree any output from the meeting.

Following consultation with the Deputy Chair and party Group Lead Members, the Chair agreed a letter to Network Rail regarding the impact of COVID-19 on London's Transport Network, as attached at Appendix 1.

The letter follows on from similar letters to the Deputy Mayor for Transport [MDA 1183] and to the Rail Delivery Group [MDA 1202].

The letter will be reported back to the next suitable meeting of the Transport Committee, currently scheduled for 8 October 2020.

Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision

Signed by Committee Services		Date	2 September 2020
Print Name:	Laura Pelling	Tel:	X. 5526


Financial implications NOT REQUIRED

NOTE: Finance comments and signature are required only where there are financial implications arising or the potential for financial implications.

Signed by Finance	Date
Print Name	Tel:

Legal implications

The Transport Committee has the power to make the decision set out in this report.

Signed by Legal  Date 2 September 2020.....

Print Name Emma Strain, Monitoring Officer Tel: X 4399


Supporting detail/List of Consultees: Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair), Keith Prince AM, David Kurten AM, Caroline Russell AM.

Public Access to Information
Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the FoIA, or the EIR and will be made available on the GLA Website, usually within one working day of approval.
If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary. **Note:** this form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after it has been approved or on the defer date.

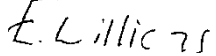
Part 1 – Deferral
Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? No
Until what date: (a date is required if deferring)

Part 2 – Sensitive information
Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under FoIA or EIR should be included in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.
Is there a part 2 form - No

Lead Officer/Author

Signed  Date 7 Sep 2020

Print Name **Haley Bowcock** Tel: x 4880
Job Title **Senior Policy Advisor**

Countersigned by  Date 7 September 2020
Executive Director

Print Name **Ed Williams** Tel: x 4399

Chair of the Transport Committee

Dr Alison Moore AM

Londonwide London Assembly Member



Appendix 1

City Hall

The Queen's Walk

London SE1A 2AA

Switchboard: 020 7983 4000

Minicom: 020 7983 4458

Web: www.london.gov.uk

9 September 2020

Andrew Haines

Chief Executive, Network Rail

1 Eversholt Street,

London NW1 2DN

(By email)

Dear Andrew,

Impact of COVID-19 on London's Transport Network

On 15 June 2020, the London Assembly Transport Committee held a meeting with Transport for London (TfL) to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London's transport network. The Committee is aware of the scale and complexity of the COVID-19 crisis, and how this has affected, and continues to affect, how people live and move around the capital.

Network Rail plays a crucial role in London's transport network, particularly at key interchanges. We commend Network Rail for their work to help maintain transport services during the first few months of the crisis, and for the continued efforts to keep rail staff and Londoners safe in their essential journeys.

As such, several pertinent areas arose during the Committee's June meeting that would greatly benefit from Network Rail's insight. This would deepen the Committee's understanding of the pandemic's impact on London's transport network, particularly given that demand on rail services across the UK is anticipated to increase considerably as lockdown restrictions continue to be eased as schools, colleges and universities reopen and more workers return to their workplaces.

Ensuring safety across London's transport network

We are aware that the rail industry – supported by the Rail Delivery Group (RDG), of which Network Rail is a member – has implemented a range of measures to ensure the safety of the network during COVID-19, and welcome this. At the June meeting, the Committee was informed that Network Rail is part of the London COVID-19 Task Force and has taken a number of actions to keep staff and passengers safe.

As you know, the requirement for passengers to wear face coverings on public transport became mandatory on 15 June 2020 and is being enforced on all transport services, and compliance is being enforced by British Transport Police. Passengers who refuse to wear a face covering can be fined up to £100 for noncompliance. Passengers can also be barred from travelling. With the change in guidance making face coverings mandatory, and with expected, continued rises in passenger numbers, the Committee is concerned about the safety risks posed to frontline workers monitoring compliance. **It would be helpful for the Committee if you could provide, in relation to those interchanges that you manage in London, any details related to:**

- **The current levels of compliance in the wearing of face masks, and how this has changed since they were made mandatory on 15 June; and,**
- **Any measures to ensure the safety of transport workers monitoring compliance.**

We are conscious that BAME members of society in particular, as well as men and older people, are disproportionately affected by COVID-19. The report from Public Health England released on 16 June 2020, *Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups*, for instance, highlighted the disproportionate mortality rate among black and Asian men. In Deputy Mayor for Transport, Heidi Alexander's opening remarks to the Committee on 15 June 2020, she drew our attention to those frontline transport workers across the TfL network and rail network who have lost their lives during the COVID-19 pandemic.¹ TfL staff have been required by the Mayor of London to conduct self-report risk assessments to help those who are disproportionately affected by COVID-19. **The Committee would welcome information about any measures that Network Rail is taking to ensure the safety of BAME colleagues.**

Managing key transport interchanges

Despite the safety practices implemented across London's transport network, we recognise that interchange stations can pose difficulties with inconsistencies in messaging and safety measures between TfL and other railway operating companies. On 15 June 2020 the Committee was informed that there has been frequent communication and collaboration with The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Transport, as well as senior representatives at Network Rail and National Rail members of the RDG to discuss TfL and Department for Transport matters during the pandemic.² **Considering the interchange stations across the capital that Network Rail manages, the Committee would value any information you can provide about:**

- **The measures you have put in place to ensure continuity of messaging and to guarantee that safety of passengers and staff remains high across all interchanges;**
- **Any innovations that you have introduced to help passengers use the train network safely at this time;**
- **How consideration is given to the safety and access needs of passengers with disabilities and sensory impairments, including, but not limited to, signage, messaging and direct assistance measures in the context of social distancing; and,**
- **What work you have undertaken with RDG to help manage demand and passenger flow at interchanges in ways that maintain social distancing.**

¹ London Assembly Transport Committee (15 June 2020), *Item 9 – Impact of COVID-19 on London's Transport Network*, pg.1.

² *Ibid*, pg.6.

The Committee appreciates any support you can give to our ongoing investigation. **We would appreciate a response by 8 October 2020.** Please contact Haley Bowcock (haley.bowcock@london.gov.uk), Senior Policy Adviser, if you have any questions about the contents of this letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Moore." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Alison Moore AM
Chair, Transport Committee