

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, Chair of the Transport Committee

Sir Peter Hendy CBE
Commissioner
Transport for London
Windsor House,
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London Assembly
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
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18 September 2014

Dear Peter

Transport Committee's response to consultation on new river crossings in east London

I am writing, on behalf of the Transport Committee, to set out our response to TfL's consultation on new river crossings in east London.

This response is based on our past work on river crossings including our response to the previous consultation in 2013.¹ Individually Members of the Committee have different views on the proposals for new river crossings so our response does not comment in detail on the proposals. Instead it draws on our previous consultation response where we concluded that TfL needed to take account of three key principles when deciding about new river crossings:

1. Establish clear objectives in the proposals for new river crossings;
2. Be transparent in the consultation process; and
3. Learn from the successes and failures of past proposed river crossings.

In light of our previous consultation response, we welcome TfL providing more detailed information in this consultation on the aims and possible effects of the different proposals for new river crossings. It is important that TfL defines the purposes and potential impacts of the different proposals clearly so Londoners can make informed choices.

We also welcome TfL's publication of a range of technical reports as part of this consultation. In our previous consultation response, we found there was considerable scope to improve the information provided. TfL's Assessment of Options document was only published two months into the previous consultation and the consultation material contained almost no information on potential traffic and environmental impacts. The key assumptions contained in the background modelling (such as tolls and a predicted rise in traffic) must be made clear and upfront in the public consultation, especially if they underpin the information on impacts which is being presented.

We wanted Londoners to have full access to the modelling information for the proposals and for this modelling to take account of the demand for cycling. Although TfL has now published reports covering the possible environmental, economic and traffic impacts of the proposals, we remain concerned that the traffic impact report still does not cover demand for cycling.

¹ The Transport Committee's response is available to view online at: <http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/london-assembly/publications/the-need-for-new-river-crossings-in-east-london-consultation>

We remain keen for TfL to demonstrate clearly that it is learning from the successes and failures of past proposals for river crossings and actual schemes. In our previous consultation response we found that questions relating to the environmental, economic and traffic benefits of the proposed crossings were likely to overlap significantly with previous proposals.

We trust that TfL will take our comments into account and look forward to hearing the outcomes of the consultation in due course.

Yours sincerely

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

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM
Chair of the Transport Committee