

Dear Residents,

I am writing to you in regard to Transport for London's proposals for Vauxhall Cross, details of which can be found on the consultation website at <https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/roads/vauxhall-cross>.

I attended a local community forum on 2 December to present the detailed plans, alongside Councillor Jack Hopkins and representatives from the Save the Bus Station campaign and the Our Vauxhall campaign. Following this meeting I have received a number of queries relating to the project which I hope to clarify in this letter.

The queries raised were broadly related to the existing bus station, the Our Vauxhall proposals, and the consultation period.

Bus station

Some residents raised queries as to why the bus station would have to change, and were concerned about how their journeys through the bus station would be affected.

To remove the existing one-way system in Vauxhall and return the roads surrounding the transport interchange (Kennington Lane, South Lambeth Road, Parry Street, Wandsworth Road) to two-way, it is necessary to make changes to the bus station. This is because there is currently a bus station entrance/exit within the Kennington Lane/Albert Embankment junction. Under a revised two-way layout, this existing access would need to be altered to ensure a viable and effective junction operation that can safely accommodate two-way operation and improvements to cycle and pedestrian provision.

TfL will be providing a new bus station as part of the scheme. Bus stops will remain centrally located and integrated with the rail and underground stations; there will be an overall reduction in walking distance between tube, rail and bus stops as part of the proposals. The proposals for the new bus station would provide new and enhanced facilities such as weather cover, public toilets, seating, information displays and maps, and an information kiosk.

TfL have produced a Frequently Asked Question note about our bus station proposals which can be found on the following website: <https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/roads/vauxhall-cross>

Our Vauxhall proposals

TfL has undertaken a comprehensive design review of the Our Vauxhall design based on the plan on the Our Vauxhall website as of 19th December 2015. This review has identified a number of reasons why the scheme is not feasible. Full details of the TfL review can be found here: <https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/roads/vauxhall-cross-2014>

Prior to the Our Vauxhall design review, TfL had assessed two alternative arrangements which were submitted in response to the initial 2014 consultation. Both of the alternative arrangements shared the same design premise as the Our Vauxhall design of closing South Lambeth Road to enhance its public realm and district centre opportunities. TfL's position on the two alternative arrangements was set out in an update on the consultation website on the [5th November 2015](#).

Consultation timescales and process

For the current consultation we have aimed to contact all those who may be affected by the changes we are proposing. We have contacted over 300,000 people who use the Vauxhall interchange, using the Oyster database. We have delivered leaflets to local residents, and handed out leaflets within the bus station to people travelling through the interchange. We have issued a press release, sent emails to local and pan London stakeholders, and have held briefings and drop-in sessions for stakeholder groups and the general public.

In regard to the consultation period, we would generally consider six weeks to be an appropriate duration for consultation on a major local highway scheme such as Vauxhall. However, as the consultation is spanning the Christmas holidays, and in recognition of the high level of local interest, we decided to extend this to an eight week period. The 17 January closing date means there are two normal working weeks in January for those who choose to reply towards the end of the consultation period to complete and submit their responses. We have agreed to take on board suggestions to broaden the scope of the consultation to include additional drop-in sessions early next year which are scheduled to take place on:

- 6 January 2016, from 3-7pm at York Gardens Library, SW11 2UG
- 7 January 2016, from 4-8pm at St. Anne's and All Saints, SW8 1RL

All TfL schemes follow the same robust governance process, with decision points and release of financial authority at defined stages throughout project lifecycle. With construction programmed for 2018, the Vauxhall Cross scheme will continue into the next mayoral term.

I hope that I have been able to answer your queries and concerns in relation the project, but encourage you to attend one of the drop-in sessions in January if you have any further questions, where the project team will be on hand to answer your queries.

Yours Sincerely,

Nigel Hardy
Head of Sponsorship, Road Space Management
Transport for London