

Gospel Oak to Barking Electrification Works (2016-17)

Project Overview

- This is a £133m project funded by the DfT and TfL Overground and being delivered by Network Rail.
- It will electrify the Barking to Gospel Oak Line which serves Blackhorse Road, Walthamstow Queen's Road, Leyton Midland Road and Leytonstone High Road.
- It will enable the running of 'walk through' 4 car electric trains and electric diesel trains and will double capacity on the line
- The whole line covers 14 miles and runs through six boroughs and hundreds of thousands of people living close to the line will benefit from reduced Nox and CO² emissions from the trains.
- Works are due to be complete by June 2017
- New rolling stock should be operational by January 2018.

Programme

- October 2015 to May 2016 - enabling Works (weekend closures scheduled not to coincide with closures of the North London Line)
- Closures of the line from early June 2016 until early February 2017 (eight months)
- June-September 2016 some peak services will run between Gospel Oak and South Tottenham with the whole line being closed only at weekends
- September to early February the whole line will be closed
- Target completion of works – June 2017
- Four car trains will begin running in early 2018.

Enabling Works

- The enabling works will involve the installation of 500 piled foundations
- Noisy works will be necessary some of which may have to take place at night.
- Each piling work takes between 30 minutes and 1 hour before the machinery moves
- Piling sites are about 30 metres apart.
- Murphy's is one of the main contractors involved.
- The enabling works also include the removal of vegetation and trees so that wires are not impacted by leaves and branches especially in cuttings.

Engineering Works

- Parts of the track located in cuttings will have to be lowered to allow the wires to pass under bridges. This will involve the removal of the track and the lowering of the foundations. The section between Blackhorse Road and Walthamstow Queen's Road is affected. About 1500 metres of this may have to be lowered by up to 0.5 metres
- In some places the gravel foundation of the lines will be replaced with concrete slab foundations. The sound that trains running over concrete slabs may be different from that that residents are used to with gravel foundations.
- About 12 bridges will need to be raised or otherwise renovated. One such bridge is Queen's Road Bridge which may have to be closed for between 8 to 10 weeks. The duration and length of this closure depends on negotiations

with utility companies. The footbridge at Walthamstow Queen's Road will also be closed for the entire blockade period.

- Some bridge parapets may need to be raised to conform to modern standards.
- The closure of the line will be coordinated with the extension of some platforms to allow 4 car trains eg at Walthamstow Queen's Road. These platforms will be extended in at the Selbourne Road end of the platforms.
- It is hoped that the closure of the line can be coordinated with the installation of step-free access at Blackhorse Road Overground station. The plan is to commission the lifts in December 2016, but this is subject to a funding review led by the DfT, taking place in March 2016.
- Signalling is not affected by the works
- Waltham Forest did request the consideration of the installation of bicycle wheel channels at High Road Leyton and Leytonstone High Road to improve accessibility there but Network Rail have confirmed that they will not be able to do this as part of this project.

Consultation

- Letters and emails will be sent to residents
- There will be a helpline and a Twitter feed @NetworkrailGOBE
- Some businesses based in railway arches, who may have access to their premises disrupted will be contacted directly.
- Engagement with Environmental Health and Section 61 consents has taking place to address the noise impact of piling and enabling works.
- Further background information on the project is available at www.networkrail.co.uk/gobe
- Press release - <http://www.networkrailmediacentre.co.uk/news/vital-work-paves-the-way-for-cleaner-quieter-and-longer-trains-on-the-gospel-oak-to-barking-line>
- You tube - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oUCUYK_dfEc

Alternative Transport Arrangements

- TfL is delivering a package of two rail replacement bus services and enhanced ticket acceptance arrangements as follows:

Walthamstow Central – Barking

- Buses will serve all stations using double deck buses.
- These will operate daily from Saturday 04 June 2016, provisionally until 31 December 2016, however, the likelihood is that this will be required to operate until 07 February 2017.
- The routeing is expected to be; pick up Walthamstow Central Bus Station , left Selborne Road right Hoe Street, ahead High Road Leyton, left Warren Road, Right Francis Grove, left Grove Green Road, Right Cathall Road, Right High Street Leytonstone (Serving Leytonstone High Road from Harrow Green), left Cann Hall Road, Right Dames Road, Right Woodgrange Road, (serving Wanstead Park), left Romford Road (serving Woodgrange Park) Right North Circular Road, left London Road, Left Barking Northern Relief Road, right Longbridge Road setting down opposite Barking Station.

- Route is similar in return except runs Northern Relief Road, ahead Barking Road, right Ron Leighton Way, ahead High Street North left Romford Road.
- Buses arriving at Walthamstow Central continue out of service to Walthamstow St. James' Street to stand at Courtenay Mews. Meal Reliefs would take place at Blackhorse Road Station car-park where TfL are requesting a partial suspension whilst allowing continued use by the public.
- TfL will operate 4 buses-per-hour increasing to 6 buses-per-hour during the Monday to Friday peaks with additional stand-by bus provision.

Gospel Oak to Seven Sisters

- Will run on Saturdays/Sundays from 04 June 2016 to 24 September then daily to 31 December/07 February 2017 as above. Again using double deck buses.
- This would route Gospel Oak Station (pick up on Highgate Road) ahead Highgate road, left Fortess Walk, Left Fortess Road, ahead Junction Road, right Pemberton Gardens, ahead St. John's Grove left Holloway Road (Serve Upper Holloway) Archway Gyratory, Right St. John's Way, Right Havelville Road, Right Hornsey Road (Crouch Hill served from Hornsey Road/Hanley Road), left Seven Sisters Road (serve Finsbury Park), left Green Lanes (serve Harringay Green Lanes), right St. Ann's road, left Seven Sisters Road (serve Seven Sisters). Buses run out of service to stand at Tottenham Hale, Ashley Road/Burdock Road.
- Operates 4 buses-per-hour increasing to 6 buses-per-hour in the Monday to Friday peaks with additional stand-by bus provision.

Seven Sisters to Walthamstow Central

- Given the significantly quicker option for customers to travel between Seven Sisters and Walthamstow Central by Victoria Line underground train, TfL do not propose providing any rail replacement bus link between these points. Ticket acceptance will be arranged on all local bus services that parallel the closure although it is not currently TfL's intention to enhance any of these services.
- TfL have issued an Invitation to Tender for the Walthamstow – Barking service and will shortly be doing likewise for the Gospel Oak – Seven Sisters service.

Other potential road disruptions

- It should also be noted that during this period there will also be major road works and street works at various times including parts of Selborne Rd; Hoe St; High Rd Leyton; High Road Leytonstone.
- There are also ongoing town-centre regeneration works in St. James's St. which might also affect footways in Courtney Mews (although not affecting the bus-stand locations).
- There may be re-surfacing of Forest Road around the Blackhorse Road junction sometime during this period.