

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Unmesh Desai AM**

C/o [Lauren.Harvey@london.gov.uk](mailto:Lauren.Harvey@london.gov.uk)

**Our ref:** MGLA090623-9546

**Date:** 14 August 2023

Dear Unmesh,

Thank you for sharing the petition submitted by Martha Sedgwick regarding the safety of Bow Roundabout.

Transport for London (TfL) is committed to improving the safety of its network and delivering my Vision Zero Action Plan and Healthy Streets framework. TfL recognises that these suggestions aim to create a safer environment for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers at Bow roundabout, as well as a space that the local community can be proud of. It is, however, important that any suggestions taken forward are both feasible and affordable, as well as in line with TfL's Transport Design Guidance.

TfL has provided me with the following responses to each point raised within the petition:

## **Signage indicating there are children crossing**

The Department for Transport's (DfT) guidance outlined in the Traffic Advisory Leaflet 01/13 emphasises the principle that 'less is more' when it comes to signage. Excessive use of signs can cause visual clutter, dilute important messages, and potentially lead to information overload for road users. At Bow Roundabout, there are dedicated signalised pedestrian crossings which, when used correctly, provide sufficient necessary information to aid road users. These signalised pedestrian crossings mean there is no requirement for additional warning signs, which could distract drivers and be counterproductive to reducing road danger.

## **Fencing or planting around the edge of the central roundabout area that pedestrians cross**

In the last ten years, TfL has completed a pan-London programme removing large sections of pedestrian guardrail. Studies have shown that the removal of such barriers had little to no impact on pedestrian safety. Furthermore, in TfL's experience, pedestrian restraint systems and other similar physical barriers, including fencing, can cause more harm to vulnerable road users. It is for these reasons that TfL would not look to install fencing (even in the form of planters) around the edge of the central roundabout.

## **Bring forward plans to create two bridges to connect Bow and Sugar House Island**

TfL will further support the development plans for the construction of two bridges connecting Bow and Sugar House Island. Bridges in this area can improve connectivity and enhance pedestrian access, making it easier and safer for residents. TfL will work with the relevant planning authorities to better understand and support such infrastructure.

# MAYOR OF LONDON

## **Create visual markings on the road to make it clearer to cars that they are entering a new zone**

Roads in this area have different speed limits with signs clearly demarcating the transition from one road to another. TfL would welcome any suggestions for additional visual cues or potential physical measures that your constituents feel could add clarity for drivers.

## **Introduce new lighting to make it brighter at night**

TfL recognises the importance of well-lit spaces. It will investigate lighting at Bow Roundabout further to ensure that the roundabout is sufficiently lit to ensure pedestrian safety during night-time hours. If TfL deems it necessary, it will commission a lighting survey to identify potential areas for lighting improvements.

## **Add planting on the roundabout and along pedestrian walkways**

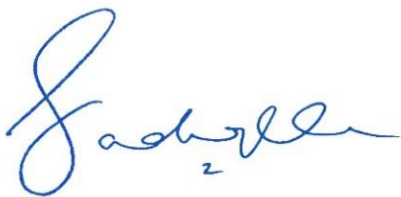
TfL has incorporated planters on the roundabout and along the pedestrian walkways leading to the roundabout as part of a previous scheme. While this has helped to create a more aesthetically pleasing environment, TfL recognises that there is an opportunity to further increase biodiversity value at the roundabout and will investigate ways of doing so with more planting, subject to identifying suitable funding sources.

## **Work with the local artist community and local schools to create a mural or murals on the underside and/or pillar of the flyover, and add floor art to the central zone**

TfL understands the importance of not only adding visual appeal but also showcasing local talent, adding to the sense of community ownership and pride. This is something TfL would be happy to facilitate, subject to identifying suitable sources of funding, including local crowdfunding.

Please extend my thanks to your constituents for sharing their ideas for improving the safety of their communities and the local area. I have asked TfL to keep you and your constituents updated as progress continues.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Sadiq Khan**  
Mayor of London