

MAYOR OF LONDON

Unmesh Desai AM

By email

Our ref:

Date: 25 July 2024

Dear Unmesh,

Thank you for forwarding to the Mayor the petition presented at the London Assembly (Plenary) on Thursday 8 February regarding the Blackwall Tunnel user charge, as well as for writing to me on this issue. As Deputy Mayor for Transport, I am responding on the Mayor's behalf. I apologise for the delay to my response, which is a result of the two recent pre-election periods.

The new Silvertown Tunnel will help reduce congestion and deliver faster, more reliable journeys in east London, including new public transport and cycle connections. When the tunnel opens in 2025, user charges will need to be introduced at both Silvertown and Blackwall tunnels, to help manage traffic and repay the construction costs. These charges have been parts of the plan since the proposals were first developed in 2012.

Transport for London (TfL) launched a public consultation on 10 July 2024 on the proposed user charge levels, supported by a green and fair package of discounts, exemptions and concessions for local residents.

The proposed standard off-peak rate of £1.50 for cars, motorbikes and small vans would apply the majority of the time for vehicles registered for TfL AutoPay. To manage traffic during the busiest times, peak charges will apply. Peak charges are £1 more than standard off-peak charges for motorbikes and an extra £2.50 for cars and small vans, and apply for four hours northbound in the morning (from 6am to 10am) and three hours southbound in the evening (from 4pm to 7pm), Monday to Friday.

Exemptions would apply for taxis and blue badge holders, zero-emission capable and wheelchair-accessible private hire vehicles registered with TfL and DVLA-registered minibuses and coaches, as well as staff and patients eligible for the NHS reimbursement scheme. A full list of all the proposed discounts and exemptions is attached to this email.

To support residents and businesses, a green and fair package of concessions and discounts is proposed, including a 50 per cent charge discount for people on low incomes

MAYOR OF LONDON

across east and south-east London and free cross-river bus, cycle shuttle and DLR travel for at least one year.

This includes:

1. 50% discount for low-income drivers living in east London.
2. £1 discount on the standard off-peak charge for small businesses, sole traders and charities registered in host boroughs for at least one year.
3. Free cross-river bus and DLR travel to support local residents for at least one year.
4. A regular bus shuttle service through the Silvertown Tunnel for cyclists, free for at least one year.

Tunnel user charges, required as part of the development consent for the new tunnel and first proposed in 2012, will be introduced for using the Silvertown and Blackwall tunnels between 06:00 and 22:00, seven days a week once the new Silvertown Tunnel opens in spring 2025.

TfL's six-week consultation runs until 3 September 2024, and we want local stakeholders, businesses, and residents to share their views. All feedback received will be considered by the TfL Board before they decide the charge levels, discounts and exemptions. That decision is expected in late 2024. To find out more and to share their views I would encourage your constituents to go to www.tfl.gov.uk/TC-yourview, where they can complete TfL's online consultation questionnaire.

Yours sincerely,



Seb Dance

Deputy Mayor for Transport