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Emma Stewart  
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**Our ref:**  
**Your ref:**  
**Date: 4 September 2009**

Dear Ms Stewart

### **TfL/TravelWatch South London Line Options Study**

Ian Brown's letter of 7 August in relation to the above study requests comments on the long list of options by 4 September. In examining options for south London rail connections, particularly in relation to London Bridge, the issue of platform capacity at London Bridge should be an important consideration.

I would like to draw your attention to the Transport Committee's February 2009 report *The Big Squeeze: Rail overcrowding in London*. In that report, the Committee highlighted the issue of increases to London Bridge platform capacity as part of the Thameslink project. Network Rail had expressed an aspiration to lengthen all of the station's platforms to accommodate twelve carriages; however, the Department for Transport had planned for two platforms to remain shorter. The Committee recommended the following:

The argument for not lengthening all the platforms at London Bridge is unconvincing. It is difficult to see how the economies of scale offered by increasing platform length in one project might be offset by anything other than short-term considerations. We believe that The Department for Transport should develop plans to lengthen all platforms at London Bridge to twelve cars long and implement these alongside current work.

As far as the Committee understands, it remains the Department's intention not to fund the extension of all the platforms at London Bridge for twelve carriages. Hence, at its meeting on 3 September, the Committee agreed that I should request that maximising platform capacity enhancements at London Bridge should be considered as part of the South London Line study, and the consequences for stopping trains that come from this. We believe that the full extension of all the platforms at London Bridge is required to provide sufficient capacity for the long term and that this can be delivered as best value for money through the Thameslink project. Funding options for making this enhancement to the scope of Thameslink should be looked at.

Yours sincerely

**Caroline Pidgeon AM**  
Chair of the Transport Committee