



Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM
Chair of the Transport Committee

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London
Greater London Authority

(Sent by email)

26 July 2021

Dear Mr Mayor,

The Transport Committee held an investigation into the 'state and future of Transport for London's finances', at its meeting on 30 June 2021.

We heard from the Deputy Mayor for Transport, Heidi Alexander, about the current challenges facing Transport for London (TfL)'s short and long-term funding situation and the alternative sources of revenue that are currently being explored. We also heard evidence from Patrick Doig, Divisional Finance Director, Surface Transport and Vernon Everitt, Managing Director, Customers, Communication and Technology, of TfL; and Professor Stephen Glaister, Professor of Transport and Infrastructure at the Centre for Transport Studies at Imperial College London. We have since written to the Department for Transport to express our concerns about the financial situation and called on the Department to work with TfL to develop long-term sustainable mechanisms for revenue generation and capital investment.

We are writing to you to request a schedule of all the transport commitments you have for this Mayoral term, together with associated costs and delivery timescales, and which of them are your immediate priorities. We would also like to understand if you think it is possible to meet the revenue and savings targets stipulated in the Government's recent funding deals for TfL, without a significant reduction in quality and capacity.

Please can you update the Committee on what you believe the financial situation means for the future of London's transport system in the short, medium and long term, including the likely implications for service levels, maintenance, upgrades and expansion.

During the 30 June meeting we heard about the uncertain outlook for demand on London's transport network as the economy reopens, and the caution with which TfL is approaching taking forward any new large capacity-enhancement schemes.¹ We heard from TfL that its central projection is that demand on the rail network would get back to pre-pandemic levels by 2031 and that bus demand will be slightly less than that. The Committee also considered road capacity issues, as well as the potential for the cancellation or pausing of major capital projects. Please can you update the Committee on which schemes relating to increasing London's transport capacity and connectivity remain a priority for you, which are under review, and which have now been paused or cancelled.

In addition, we heard about potential bus service reductions, including how the public may or may not be engaged in any proposed service changes, and also the need for improved orbital bus services. Please can you let us know the latest status of the TfL Bus Review, plans for public engagement on any changes to bus services, and also the available options you have to create or extend orbital bus services more quickly, linking outer London boroughs where they are not already well linked.

Finally, on the matter of TfL advertising revenue during the pandemic, the Deputy Mayor for Transport told the Committee that TfL expects *"income to remain suppressed in the medium term, both in terms of fare income and with regard to income from advertising, which is partially dependent upon the footfall that we are seeing on the public transport network"*.² We also note a recent article from The Guardian from the 5 July 2021, which reported a *"£100m plunge in advertising revenue across its network of tube stations, trains and buses after Covid-19 pandemic restrictions kept commuters away from travelling to work"*.³ Please can you let us know what plans you have in place, and the progress you are making, to stimulate new and returning advertising income across TfL, as London emerges from lockdown.

We look forward to receiving your response to our requests for information.

¹ London Assembly, [Appendix 1 – Draft Minutes Transport Committee meeting](#), 30 June 2021

² London Assembly, [Appendix 1 – Draft Minutes Transport Committee meeting](#), 30 June 2021

³ The Guardian, 'TfL hit by £100m fall in ad revenue across tube, rail and bus network', 5 July 2021

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jul/05/tfl-hit-by-100m-fall-in-ad-revenue-across-tube-rail-and-bus-network>

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Pidgeon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM
Chair of the Transport Committee