

MAYOR OF LONDON

Sheila Keeble, Richard Butt, Marilyn Little

By email

Date: 28 October 2020

Dear Sheila, Richard and Marilyn,

Thank you for writing to me and the Mayor on 23 July about the Silvertown Tunnel. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in responding to you and accept this as a response from us both.

I note your concern about the lack of detailed design documents at this stage. Please be assured that any lack of information at this time simply reflects the fact that the scheme is still in its relatively early stages. The new tunnel is expected to open in 2025 and there is much work that Transport for London (TfL) and its contractor, Riverlinx, will be doing between now and then to develop the scheme and engage with the local community about its design and construction.

Many details of the scheme have already been published as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) process and are available on the Planning Inspectorate website at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/london/silvertown-tunnel/?ipcsection=docs>

The site can be searched to find specific documents but the most relevant document to your enquiry may be the Design and Access Statement, which is available here:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010021/TR010021-000230-7.3%20Design%20and%20Access%20Statement.pdf>

These documents should provide further information to you and other residents about the scheme, but you should note that they reflect the initial proposals produced as part of the DCO process, and are now several years old. TfL/Riverlinx are in the early stages of progressing the next stages of design and construction planning. I know how important it is that the local community is involved in that process and TfL/Riverlinx are committed to doing this to a high standard.

The documents going through the Greenwich planning process recently are just the first. As you note, they relate to some of the earlier enabling works in the construction process, such as a new access to the SGN gasometer. Once further information is available on other details, such as the signage, road layouts and pedestrian/cycle access, TfL/Riverlinx will engage with the local community and other stakeholders to develop each element of the scheme.

I agree that the existing A102 is a significant barrier to movement in the area and TfL is committed to addressing these issues, not just through the Silvertown Tunnel scheme, but also through wider work with the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

You are correct that the existing Boord Street footbridge will be demolished as part of the Silvertown Tunnel works. This will be replaced by a new pedestrian and cycle bridge and complemented by wider improvements to the walking and cycling environment along Boord Street and Tunnel Avenue. TfL and Riverlinx are working with local landowners and developers to begin this design work and will be carrying out further community engagement when this is more progressed. This work will improve this key connection across the A102 for existing communities and support new developments planned in the area. Importantly, TfL will not close the existing footbridge until the new one is open to minimise disruption to this link.

The two other footbridges you mention, at the Odeon cinema and Westcombe Park Station, will also be improved in the coming years. As part of the Silvertown Tunnel scheme, TfL has agreed to provide funding for the Royal Borough of Greenwich to improve these links with improved CCTV, lighting, surfacing, signage and pocket parks in the local area. This should help to make people feel safe and encourage more people to walk and cycle along these links.

TfL is also developing options to address the issues at the Angerstein Roundabout as part of its wider plans for Cycleway 4.

I look forward to seeing all these measures implemented, alongside the Silvertown Tunnel and other developments in the area over the coming years. I am confident that the result will be a much-improved environment for everybody living, working and travelling in Greenwich.

Once again, please accept my apologies for this delayed response. I understand initial liaison meetings have now been held with local community groups and I hope this has started a positive dialogue. You should now have contacts at TfL and Riverlinx where further information can be requested but do get in touch should you have further questions or concerns they have not been able to help with.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Heidi Alexander', with a stylized, flowing script.

Heidi Alexander

Deputy Mayor for Transport