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Transport for London
Have Your Say (SL15)

November 2025



Transportation
Communities and Environment

3rd Floor, Woolwich Centre
35 Wellington Street
London
SE18 6HQ

Main number 020 8854 8888

Dear Transport for London

RE: SL15 – proposed express bus service between Clapham Junction and Eltham

Thank you for consulting on the Superloop 15 route between Clapham Junction and Eltham.

The Royal Borough of Greenwich is supportive of any express bus service which serves key destinations across London, and notes the wider benefits that the proposed service would bring. However, we do feel that the proposals as presented represent a missed opportunity for our borough.

Based on a significant amount of correspondence and campaigning from Councillors and Officers, the Council considers that there is a key need to connect Eltham High Street with Woolwich Town Centre by providing direct and express bus services. However, the SL15 proposals as per the consultation would terminate at Eltham. Although this would provide benefit for passengers wishing to travel west from Eltham, this would not bring any benefit for potential patronage in Woolwich and would leave the key Woolwich - Eltham route under-served. The Council therefore considers this is a significant missed opportunity. Woolwich is a major town centre in terms of connectivity due to the successful delivery of the Elizabeth Line, alongside many other bus routes and the DLR / South Eastern Railway Services, and would benefit hugely from new express services to Eltham and beyond.

Our understanding from Transport for London is that extending the SL15 to Woolwich would mean going beyond the timetable to provide drivers with breaks. We therefore have reviewed the route alignment and have some suggestions which could enable TfL to extend the service to Woolwich by reducing the number of stops along this route (but which we consider should not impact passenger numbers too negatively):

- To consider only one stop in Clapham Junction, due to proximity of the two currently proposed stops
- To consider only one stop between Catford Bridge and Lewisham Town Hall, also due to proximity of the currently proposed stops

We also note that the proposed service is to be single deck due to the low bridge on Thurlow Park Road. Although we acknowledge that rectifying this situation may be technically challenging and may involve substantial cost, we consider that in the long-term providing a double deck service may lead to even more patronage, further supporting our shared sustainable travel agenda. We trust that you are engaging with Network Rail to determine the timeline for bridge renewals, and whether it is feasible to increase the vertical clearance under the bridge.

We hope you would consider our points carefully before deciding on whether to progress this Superloop route. Should you move forward with the existing alignment and termini, we would request further work with Council Officers to develop proposals for improving bus services between Eltham High Street and Woolwich.

Yours Sincerely

Alex Sexton
Head of Programmes and Public Realm