

# 2021 the “pivotal year” for the Crossrail programme

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The CEO of Crossrail has described 2021 as the pivotal year for the programme. In the first report of the year to the London Assembly Transport Committee, Mark Wild says everyone is recharged and raring to go to complete the delivery of this railway.

He said: “Following the strong finish to the end of last year, there is great momentum across the programme as we look to accomplish vital milestones in the year ahead.

“The two critical paths to opening the railway are intensive operational testing of the railway and the handover of the central section stations.

“These will be our overarching focus for 2021, alongside our unflinching commitment to maintaining high levels of safety across the programme.”

He says all shafts and portals have been handed over to Transport for London; dynamic testing of the signalling and train systems is complete; the necessary routeway integration testing for the Trial Running assurance case has also been completed; and all central section stations are certified as ready to support

Trial Running.

The remaining steps include the handover of the completed routeway to TfL, completing the safety and assurance process and obtaining regulatory approval from the Office of Rail and Road.

Mark said: “Station handover is the second critical path to the delivery of the Elizabeth line and a stations completion expert has been added to the team to ensure that happens.

“We have prioritised order of stations for the handover starting with Farringdon, Paddington, Tottenham Court Road, Woolwich and Abbey Wood followed by Liverpool Street, Canary Wharf, Whitechapel and Bond Street.”

Photo credit: Crossrail Ltd