

Essential track maintenance on Circle and District lines next week

July 27, 2021



Transport for London (TfL) has issued a reminder to Circle and District line customers that the lines will be closed next week for nine days. Starting next Wednesday, 4 August, there will be no service between Edgware Road and Aldgate via Victoria on the Circle line and from Earl's Court to Aldgate East on the District line. On the weekend of 7 and 8 August, the planned closure on the District line will also be extended from Earl's Court to Hammersmith, Kensington Olympia, Wimbledon and Edgware Road. Service will resume on Friday 13 August.

Ahead of the work, TfL has been working and engaging with affected businesses, local attractions and boroughs including the Exhibition Road Cultural Group to ensure they and their customers have information in time to plan journeys around the closure.

Esther Sharples, Director of Asset Performance and Capital Delivery at TfL, said: "We are sorry for the disruption that this vital work will cause to our Circle and District line customers. It is not a decision we have taken lightly, but this carrying out this vital and safety-critical work in one closure will mean we are able to reduce overall disruption. We will also be carrying out other maintenance and improvement work to make sure we do all we can to minimise future disruption. Customers should check the TfL website before

they travel, where they will be able to find alternative options to complete journeys.”

Wherever possible, customers are asked to walk or cycle all or part of their journeys. Much of Zone 1 is easily walkable and TfL is working with boroughs to create more space for people to safely walk, cycle, or scoot. There are also Santander Cycles docking stations located near all of the affected stations. Hiring a Santander Cycle costs just £2 for unlimited journeys up to 30 minutes within a 24-hour period and cycling could reduce your journey time by 5 to 15 minutes.

In addition, there are a wide range of bus services available, and TfL will deploy additional staff across the transport network to help ensure that any disruption for customers is minimised. Travel advice for the period will be found on the TfL Go, or on TfL’s website. A dedicated travel advice page for this closure is available here: tfl.gov.uk/circle-district

Over the nine-day closure, TfL will undertake engineering works around Embankment station. This includes completely removing the outdated long timber track at the station and replacing it with concrete slab track, which involves pumping over 100 tonnes of concrete from the road level. This will provide better journeys with greater reliability. Further work, including replacing and packing ballast underneath the track, will help facilitate faster train speeds and reduced journey times.

During the pandemic, TfL introduced a wide range of additional measures to ensure that the network is cleaner than ever, including an enhanced cleaning regime using hospital-grade substances. More than 1,000 hand sanitiser points and more than 200 UV light devices on escalators handrails that continually kill bacteria and viruses are also keeping customers safe across the network.

Photo credit: Transport for London