



A message from

WESTMINSTER LABOUR

Working for you in Westminster

Department of Transport
Great Minster House,
33 Horseferry Rd,
London
SW1P 4DR

Bakerloo Line must be saved!

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing to express our deep concern about the potential impact on our communities of the pandemic-induced pressures on the finances of Transport for London. As you know, the government made TfL entirely financially reliant on fares and other self-generated operating income as of April 2018 when grant funding was withdrawn. This has made it acutely vulnerable to the short-term fall in passenger numbers that has resulted from the pandemic.

We are particularly concerned about the potential implications of the funding situation for the future of the Bakerloo line, which already has the oldest trains on the underground network, with some now 50 years in service. If upgrades are delayed, they could be 70 before being decommissioned, and with ageing comes the need for more maintenance, cracking, and corrosion.

There have been reported discussions that if the government doesn't work with the Mayor of London to agree a new deal then the future of one of London's tube lines might be in jeopardy, something that would have a huge impact on our city.

While the loss of any tube line would be deeply damaging for London, it is essential that the future of the Bakerloo line is secured. The Bakerloo provides an indispensable north-south link for many Westminster residents, particularly those in the north of the borough for whom it is the only accessible tube line in a densely populated area.

The future of the Bakerloo line is particularly crucial in the context of the climate emergency and the fact that over 72% of Westminster residents do not have access to a private car—one of the lowest levels of car ownership in the country. The impact of the pandemic has already seen cuts to local bus services covering our city, including the loss of the 414 bus between Maida-Hill and Marble Arch.

It is essential that TfL receives comparable support to the national train operators, who have received long-term assistance with fewer conditions attached than have been placed so far on the transport network here in London. We urge you to work with the Mayor of London to place the funding of London's transport network on a sustainable footing, protecting vital services that our city will need as it recovers from the pandemic and ensuring the future of the Bakerloo line on which so many of Westminster residents depend.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Buck MP (Westminster North)
Cllr Adam Hug (Leader of Westminster Labour Group)

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for Westminster

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