

Sutton Link: unlocking jobs and homes in Sutton and Merton

Dear Transport for London,

The South London Partnership (SLP), a collaboration of the five London boroughs of Croydon, Kingston, Merton, Richmond and Sutton, is writing in support of improving the link between Merton and Sutton through the Sutton Link proposals. This is one of our major infrastructure priorities and is vital to improving connectivity both on commuting lines and through links to the wider suburban rail network, which are critical in realising our economic and housing growth aspirations.

The Sutton Link will play a crucial role in connecting some of South London's key town centres, and will help to address a current public transport deficit across the sub-region that contributes to high car use and subsequent road congestion. It also creates the opportunity, if extended beyond Sutton Town Centre, to help unlock the huge economic potential of the London Cancer Hub. This is an international asset that will create 13,000 jobs over the next 25 years.

It is essential that transport links between Sutton and Merton are improved. Extending the tram network to Sutton has been a priority of Sutton and Merton Councils for over 20 years and all of the route options currently being consulted on could be delivered as an extension to the existing London Trams network. Not only does the Sutton Link enable South London to deliver new homes and jobs, but it also increases access to public transport for some of London's worst connected areas.

We recognise that two of the three route options could also be delivered as a Bus Rapid Transit system. Whilst we support the exploration of new technologies to deliver improvements to public transport, the SLP has a strong preference for the Sutton Link to be delivered as a tram extension. The existing London Trams network is a unique asset within South London and since the existing route opened in 2000 it has enabled the delivery of significant growth across the sub-region. We have no preference on the route of the extension, so long as it enables us to meet our ambitious plans for growth whilst improving connectivity.

We strongly support the Mayor's commitment in the Mayor's Transport Strategy to exploring opportunities, with the London Boroughs of Sutton and Merton, for a tram extension to Sutton and potentially beyond. We also welcome the commitment from TfL of £70m funding and to undertake the necessary feasibility works required to deliver a potential Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO) application, and would stress the importance of identifying sources of future funding to ensure the timely delivery of the Sutton Link.

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Sturrock
Director, South London Partnership

For further information please contact:

Bryony Langdon

Policy & Programme Manager (Infrastructure, Planning & Housing)

South London Partnership

Email: bryony.langdon@southlondonpartnership.co.uk

Phone: 07542 942770