

Crossrail Progress Update

November 2009



This is the third of our regular updates about Crossrail, designed to keep businesses informed of progress and the steps being taken to manage the impact. We would be pleased to receive your comments on this newsletter and its coverage. **Contact Cynthia Grant on cgrant@londonfirst.co.uk or 020 7665 1503.**



Photo courtesy of TfL

The rebuild of Tottenham Court Road station is due to start in early 2010, as the demolition of buildings on the site enters its final phase.

Crossrail programme

- Procurement:
 - All of the scheme designers are now in place
 - All enabling works are now in place
 - All delivery partners are now in place
- In early 2010 construction will start on a major tunnel portal at Royal Oak. This portal will be the location where the main tunnelling machines are to be launched from, and will mark an important milestone in the project's progress.
- Crossrail have also started the OEJU process for the two main tunnel drives - eastwards from Farringdon and westwards from Canary Wharf, and have started the pre-tendering process for the station boxes (platforms) for Bond Street and Tottenham Court Road

Construction impacts

- The demolition of buildings at the junction of Tottenham Court Road and Oxford Street, and between Denmark Place and Centrepont is on schedule to finish in the autumn. Over 95% of the material from these sites has been recycled and is being re-used on site. The contractor's crane and scaffolding will be removed and later this year the sites will be prepared for the construction of the new station, which starts early in 2010.

- Work on the new western ticket hall, which will serve both Crossrail and Tottenham Court Road Tube station, began in October with ground investigations in and around Dean Street. For more detailed information on these works, and on the bus diversions which are made necessary by the utilities works, please see the TfL website: www.tfl.gov.uk/tcr

Local liaison arrangements

- Crossrail's first visitor centre near Tottenham Court Road came into operation in July, providing a one-stop shop for local residents and businesses to get information about the Crossrail project and London Underground's redevelopment of Tottenham Court Road Tube station. This visitor centre is shortly to be upgraded to accommodate its growing role over the coming two years. Crossrail are also planning to start work in early 2010 on a second visitor centre in Whitechapel.

Crossrail visitor centre - Tottenham Court Road

16-18 St Giles High Street, WC2H 8LN (opposite the junction with Denmark Street)

Opening times: Tuesdays and Thursdays from midday until 8pm

Skills

- A first draft of the Crossrail Skills Strategy has now been prepared. This aims to inspire future talent, support local labour, and revitalise the tunnelling skills base needed for the project. Work has reached an advanced stage on the Crossrail Tunnelling Academy – located at a site near Ilford – with earth breaking scheduled for March 2010, and opening in October 2010. This academy will help to provide staff with the required skillset for the project, and to ensure that Londoners will benefit from the job opportunities created. It is expected to train 1000 people by 2015. This workforce can then go on to deliver other tunnelling projects in London.

Safeguarding

- Transport Minister Rt Hon Sadiq Khan MP has announced that the Government is to protect the route of a potential future Crossrail extension from Abbey Wood to Gravesend in Kent - the Crossrail scheme's plans currently terminate at Abbey Wood. While no decision or commitment to extend it further to Gravesend and Hoo Junction has been made, safeguarding provides additional protection against future developments on the route.

Excavated material to be moved by river

- At the end of September Crossrail announced that they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Port of London Authority to confirm its commitment to use barges and ships along the Thames to move its excavated materials. If the equivalent five million tonnes were to be transported by road they would require up to half a million lorry journeys.
- The material excavated from the project will be transported by boat along the Thames for use in landscaping projects. These include a new 1,500 acre nature reserve at Wallasea Island in Essex.

Crossrail Utilities Group

- Crossrail have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the utilities providers to ensure that all works are carried out in a coordinated and integrated manner – the objective is to ensure that no holes are dug up more than once for different providers.

Crossrail website

- The Crossrail website can be found at: <http://www.crossrail.co.uk>