

GREATERLONDONAUTHORITY

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Eileen Conn

Southwark Rail User's Group
C/o Peckham SE15 4LA
SRUG@southwarkrailusers.net

Date:

10 FEB 2012

Dear Ms Conn

Thank you for providing me with a copy of your letter of 25 January to the Minister of State for Transport.

I am pleased that you note the increase in journey opportunities when the London Overground extension to Clapham Junction opens in December 2012. I fully understand the inconvenience resulting from the reduction in services to Victoria. As you know, this is caused by the Thameslink Programme's construction works at London Bridge, which will result in the loss of the current South London Line service. To help address this, I, like you, am continuing to pursue with the Department for Transport (DfT) additional calls on certain peak services running via Peckham Rye and Denmark Hill. This is something that I understand requires Ministerial approval which I am seeking. In the longer term, I am still seeking for a new half-hourly all-stations service from Bromley South to Victoria to be included in the next Southeastern franchise.

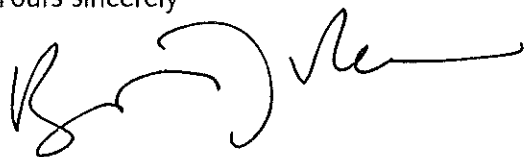
You mention in your letter services during the late evenings and weekends. The DfT will change these services from May 2012. From this time, the Southeastern services, currently operating to Victoria during evenings and weekends, will run to Blackfriars instead so that there is a consistent service all day, every day for services between central London and stations on the Catford Loop, Peckham Rye and Denmark Hill. The London Underground (LU) station at Blackfriars will reopen from late February 2012, so there will be a quick, step-free interchange between the rail and LU platforms. There will also be opportunities at Blackfriars to interchange to other Thameslink services to access King's Cross St. Pancras and beyond.

Peckham Rye and Denmark Hill will still be served by Dartford to Victoria services but, as you point out, these do not operate during the evenings and at weekends. Operating these trains all day, every day is likely to be the best way of providing a direct connection to Victoria during evenings and weekends. Transport for London knows of no track capacity or timetabling constraints, but there would inevitably be a cost associated with this. As you note, this gap will hopefully be addressed in the next Southeastern franchise, which is planned to start in 2014. I expect the DfT's consultation on this to start about this time next year. Naturally, this will be an opportunity for me, you and others to make the case for improvements.

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I wish you all the best in your efforts on behalf of Southwark's rail users.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Boris Johnson', written in a cursive style.

Boris Johnson
Mayor of London