

Expanding rail services

Many rail improvements are planned for the London and South East area over the next few years and Transport for London has attempted to include them on this map, based on the familiar Tube map first designed by Harry Beck in 1933.

We have already waited many years for Thameslink and Crossrail so it is good to see them on this map and Railfuture will be campaigning to ensure that the plans do go ahead.

Drawing Crossrail on a map is a lot easier than finding the £11 billion needed to build it.

This new map lacks the elegance of Mr Beck's original and unlike the Capital Connections map, it does not show all the National Rail lines.

But it does show the first part of the East London Extension as if it is already built, and it includes the links to Clapham Junction and to West Croydon. This is much in line with Railfuture's 1997 Orbirail leaflet.

The existing Willesden Junction to Clapham Junction service is shown as part of Silverlink Metro.

The Croyley link is also shown, despite the fact that progress has been stalled many times, and Crossrail is shown to Kingston, though that is unlikely to happen now.

You can study this map for hours and one thing that eventually dawns is that there is very little new building, and what there is is expensive tunnels – for example Crossrail to link Heathrow with the Isle of Dogs.

It is interesting to compare the Crossrail proposals with the Victoria line which was built in the 1960s and which was not only fast compared to rattling around on District or Inner Circle, but every station save one was an interchange.

The Gospel Oak to Barking line which is currently run by Silverlink, is included, but unless it is improved a whole lot, it would be a shock to people expecting a Tube-like frequency.

No interchanges have been added to the GOB-LINE, except for one at Walthamstow and it majestically avoids communicating with almost everything in its path.

There are three new eastern crossings of the Thames and another bright spot is two tram schemes about which there has been much talk. At least they are on this map:

■ Cross River Transit links Camden to Waterloo and Peckham, using the old Kingsway Tram depot but not the tunnel under the Strand

■ West London Transit for Uxbridge to Ealing Common and Shepherds Bush Green

Busways:

■ East London Transit would serve Rainham, Redbridge, Colliers Row, Barking and Ilford

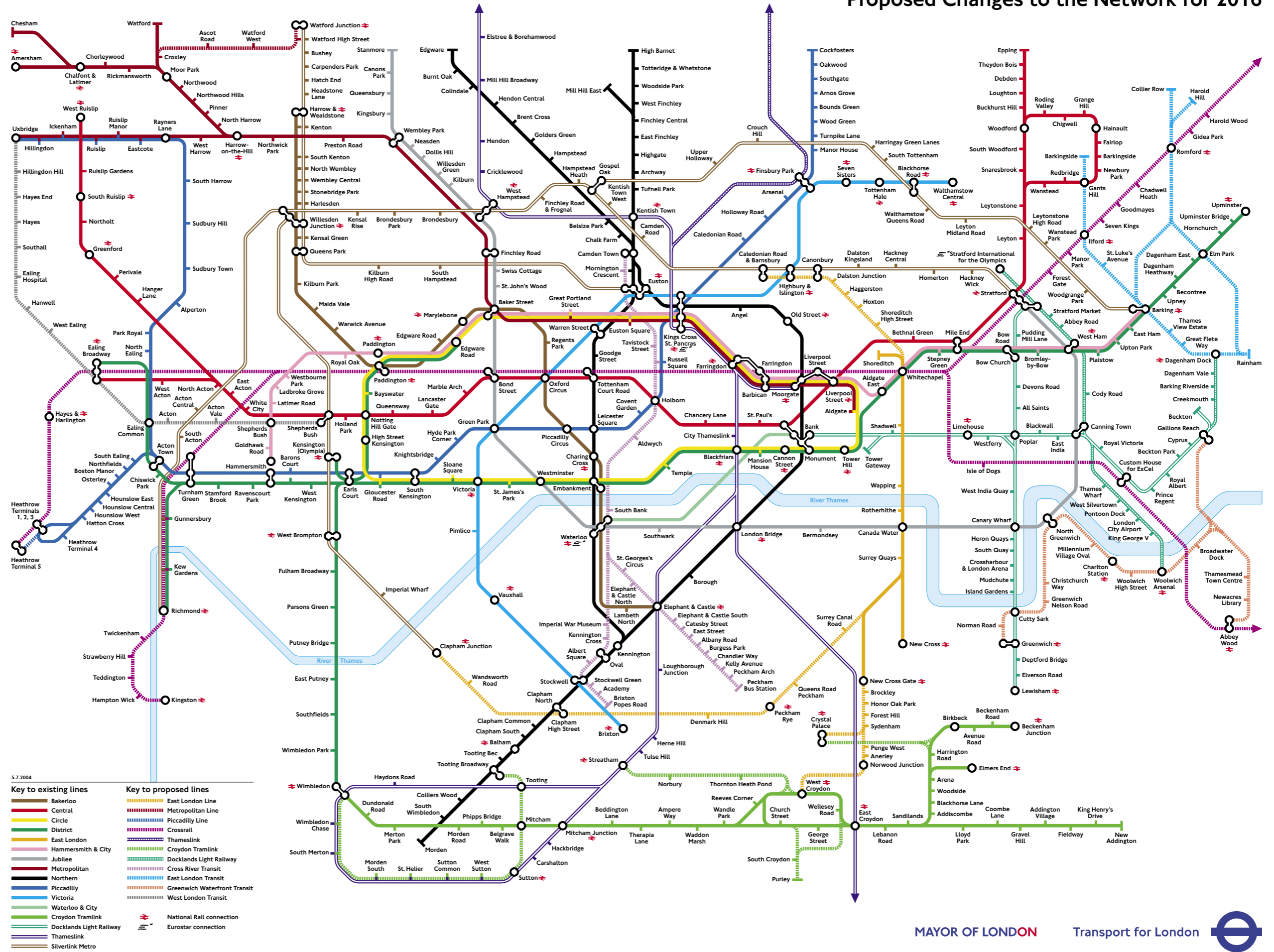
■ Greenwich Waterfront Transit is designed to provide services to Woolwich Arsenal, Abbey Wood and Gallions Reach

The existing Croydon Tramlink is there and so is the Docklands extension to Stratford International for the Olympics.

Let's hope this map was not dreamt up by public relations people more concerned with bringing the 2012 Olympic Games to London rather than providing the capital with the transport links it desperately needs to improve the quality of life for more than five million people.

You can see the map at www.london.gov.uk/mayor/transport/docs/transportmap2016.pdf

Putting Transport on the Map Proposed Changes to the Network for 2016



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