



29th July 2022

Via email to: Haveyoursay@tfl.gov.uk

CC: Abbas Raza

Central London Bus Review Consultation

Dear TfL,

The Fitzrovia Partnership is the Business Improvement District for Fitzrovia, representing 20 streets, over 250 organisations and businesses and 130,000 jobs. Amongst our members include the University of London, with thousands of students and staff who rely upon affordable and convenient public transport and UCHL, with thousands of doctors and nurses caring for patients 24/7. In our area, Tottenham Court Road is a key north-south bus priority route and Euston Road is the key east-west transport corridor.

The TfL consultation is on a four percent reduction to central London bus services and the withdrawal of some services. It is in response to falling demand, which predates Covid-19, and to the Department for Transport's requirement on TfL to reduce its operating costs. The consultation material indicates that the main changes to The Fitzrovia Partnership area are:

1. the withdrawal of service 24 and its partial replacement with the re-routed service 88
2. the withdrawal of service 14, which is partially replaced at night by the N414
3. re-routing of service 205, so it will no longer service Euston Road to Paddington



The Fitzrovia Partnership acknowledges changing demand for bus services and the constraints on public sector resources. However, as much as possible bus services need to be protected for the following reasons:

- Bus services are an important element of the Healthy Streets approach, enabling more people to get out to places and they provide a less polluting alternative to private car use
- The West End depends upon 24/7 frequent, affordable and accessible public transport to attract visitors and staff. 24-hour bus services are a vital part of the West End economy, ensuring staff and customers can travel safely at night. The Fitzrovia Partnership encourages the retention of night services for the safety of women, in particular because the majority of staff at UCHL are women.
- A reduction in bus services could make it challenging to attract staff to work in the West End, which already has significant job vacancies
- Bus trips are a more affordable option for lower paid staff and families on lower incomes.

We do, however, welcome the proposed improvements outlined in the consultation, as follows:

- Review of bus stop and street design and layouts in locations where changing bus at the same stop is not possible (e.g. providing new or improved crossings)
- Improving the customer experience at bus stops and shelters, with new bus shelters, improved lighting, wayfinding, and new real-time digital information displays. Such improvements at the Stop V on Euston Road are encouraged because it not overlooked by active frontages, it is secluded by mature trees and the immediate area has a number of places to conceal criminal or anti-social behaviour



- Continuing to deliver a range of priority measures that reduce bus delays and improve customer journey times.

We look forward to working with TfL over the coming years to deliver better bus services and the wider Healthy Streets priorities in the Fitzrovia area.

Yours sincerely,

Lee Lyons
Chief Operating Officer