

# **UNDERGROUND UPDATE**

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## **LU LIFTS AND ESCALATORS RENEWALS PROGRAMME**

There are 447 escalators, 228 lifts and four passenger conveyors at LU stations. This is expected to grow by 35 per cent between now and 2026 due to new assets being introduced by major station projects, the Accessibility programme and the Elizabeth Line. The TfL Programmes and Investment Committee reviewed the renewals programme at their meeting on Wednesday 23 October 2019. The management and volume of lift and escalators has grown progressively. This has resulted in a diverse product base (20 different types of escalators and seven different types of lifts). The current strategy is to seek to standardise these assets where possible in order to reduce unit costs. For both lifts and escalators, there are detailed work banks that prioritise which should be renewed, replaced or life-extended in a given year. Work banks are prioritised by asset risk profiles, asset condition, asset criticality, and opportunities from alignment with other planned works.

The 'in-truss' approach is a new method of escalator renewal which is being trialled at Wood Green station, contracted to Schindler, due to complete in March 2020. With this approach, mechanical components of the escalator are replaced while retaining the original steel supporting structure. This reduces scope which, in turn, reduces capital costs and reduces customer disruption. By eliminating the need for civil construction works the approach saves around £175,000 per machine. The proposal is to continue the in-truss programme following the trial at Wood Green. This will further extend the life of the escalators, provide improved reliability in comparison to a refurbishment and will contribute to a more standardised asset base. The first in-truss installations will start in late 2021. At the end of the current tranche of escalator refurbishments, the delivery team will carry out targeted minor interventions on up to 15 machines as part of a condition improvement project, before starting the in-truss replacements. The in-truss programme will bring eight machines into use by March 2023.

## **TfL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME REPORT QUARTER 1 2019/20**

TfL are working with Berkeley Homes to create a new western entrance to West Ham station, to provide a direct route into the Jubilee Line areas of the station from the development site. At Stratford, TfL continue to work with stakeholders to consider access and capacity improvements. This includes working with London Legacy Development Corporation on reviving proposals for a new entrance and ticket hall to serve the Carpenters Road area, and on improvements to step-free access and capacity in the adjacent western subway.

As an indication of what is involved, TfL delivered step-free access at South Woodford in March 2019. They converted existing steps to the westbound platform to create ramped access, modified the station layout to meet the new fire strategy, and added an additional fire escape. They also upgraded the lighting system, installed improved signage and repaired the station building.