

Dear members of the South Kensington Consultative Working Group

I am writing to let you know that from late-February 2021 we will be working to replace the old Piccadilly line escalators at South Kensington station. These complex and bespoke works will complete around early-spring 2022.

The five escalators serving the Piccadilly line, installed in 1973, are life expired and unreliable. As part of our commitment to improve every aspect of the customer experience we are replacing them with brand new escalators. These works are not connected to our planned station capacity upgrade – which is currently paused but due to remobilise soon – or to Native Land’s proposals for developing the area around the station.

Nearly two-thirds of customers who use the Tube to get to South Kensington travel on the District and Circle lines, and during the escalator replacement works the station will remain open and continue to be served by these lines. However, the Piccadilly line will not stop at the station.

Travel advice

We will advise customers who usually travel to South Kensington on the Piccadilly line to:

- (If travelling from the west) change – by crossing a single platform – at Hammersmith or Barons Court for the District line
- (If travelling from the east) exit at Knightsbridge and walk, cycle or catch one of many buses to South Kensington

We will put up clear on-street signage to make it easy to find the many cultural attractions from both Gloucester Road and Knightsbridge stations, and are working with the Exhibition Road Cultural Group on this.

We will advise customers leaving the area to:

- Use the District and Circle lines at South Kensington as normal
- (If travelling west) take the District line and change – by crossing a single platform – to the Piccadilly line at Hammersmith or Barons Court
- (if travelling east) walk, cycle, or catch one of many buses to Knightsbridge for the Piccadilly line

As the District and Circle platforms are served by just a single staircase from the ticket hall, we may have to control entries into the station at the busiest times to keep customers safe. To help with this we may need to put a controlled queuing system on Thurloe Street. We are working with Royal Borough officers on these plans to ensure they do not negatively impact residents or businesses.

We will publish detailed travel advice on our website nearer the time.

More information

Residents are highly unlikely to hear the escalator replacement works themselves as they will take place inside the station walls. However, at various stages we will need to receive deliveries and remove waste from site overnight to help us keep the station open during the day. There may be some minor noise disturbance associated with this, which we will monitor closely. We are working with the Royal Borough's environmental officers on our work plans and following their Section 61 process. Rest assured we will do all we can to minimise any disruption to our neighbours in the area. We will be sending letters to residents in the area around the station soon, when details of the works are confirmed.

Get in touch

We know you may have questions about these works and would be happy to meet with you to answer them. If you would like a meeting, just let me know and we can arrange one soon.

If I have missed any members of the Consultative Working Group I apologise and would be grateful if you could forward this message to them.

Kind regards

Andrew Hatch | Community Partnerships Specialist (West)

Transport for London | City Planning | Local Communities & Partnerships

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