

Jubilee and Northern line upgrade programmes – update, 4 November 2010

Since taking control of Tube Lines in June this year LU has been working urgently to understand the status of the line upgrade programmes they were originally responsible for delivering under the PPP contract.

Their delayed upgrade of the Jubilee line has been our overriding priority and we have been carrying out intensive testing of the new signalling system at every opportunity over the last four months. As a result of this testing we now expect to complete the Jubilee line upgrade by spring next year. We also have increasing confidence that we will be able to run trains in passenger service under the new signalling system seven days a week across much of the line by Christmas. This follows the success over the last few months of operating trains in passenger service under the new system on parts of the line during weekends.

The Northern line upgrade, which was due to follow completion of the Jubilee line upgrade, was also already delayed when Tube Lines was acquired by TfL. One of the first steps we took was to cancel the programme of disruptive works Tube Lines planned during early evenings and weekends and since then we have been continuing to review the programme with a view to completely re-engineering how the work is carried out. Our aim is to deliver the upgrade with minimum disruption for Londoners and businesses and with far fewer closures than were originally planned by Tube Lines.

Although no confirmed delivery date for the Northern line upgrade has yet been set, our current forecast is that it will be completed before the end of 2014, which was confirmed as part the Government's recent Spending Review announcement. We expect to have a clear programme in place by early 2011 following the conclusion of discussions with the signalling contractor.