

Fiveways Croydon: Mayor's Transport Strategy & Healthy Streets Check

The Healthy Streets Check is one of a number of tools and approaches that TfL is developing to embed the Healthy Streets Approach and to ensure that future investment delivers the ambitious objectives set out in the draft Mayor's Transport Strategy (MTS). In line with this, TfL's future investments will be planned, designed and implemented in accordance with the outcomes of the MTS.

The Healthy Streets Check itself is a list of criteria to aid traffic engineers and designers at the design stage of a project. Fifty criteria – both objective metrics and professional judgments – are used to ascertain the improvements that the scheme will deliver against each of the ten Healthy Streets Indicators. The main purpose of the Check is to help to avoid 'designing-in' known hazards to health e.g. trip hazards, and to avoid omitting to include interventions known to enhance health e.g. seating.

Used at the design stage, the Check covers only those factors which the project team for a scheme are able to influence. It is applied to a stretch of street that has a consistent function and form and so doesn't include factors that can only be assessed over a larger more varied area. There are many factors outside of the control of designers that can help to make a street more healthy, such as street cleaning and activation of public spaces, as well as regional and national policies, which the check doesn't cover. However, before the Healthy Streets Check is undertaken on schemes, TfL will plan and prioritise where and on what to invest using a Healthy Streets Approach as part of its wider embedding of Health Streets principles across its activities.

Currently, not all of the metrics that we'd like to be able to measure are readily available or suitably validated for capturing some aspects of the Healthy Streets Indicators at the design stage. TfL will work to add, develop and improve the Healthy Streets Check and update the Check as it develops and improves. In light of this, the current Healthy Streets Check is draft and needs further work before being able to better fulfil the objectives above. However, even in draft form it has proved useful in assessing designs including, late in the design stage of the project, those for Croydon Fiveways.

Fiveways – Healthy Streets Alignment

TfL has assessed the proposed Fiveways improvement project using the draft Healthy Streets Check which has identified that the project can deliver strongly against many of the key Healthy Streets Indicators. The Fiveways project proposes improvements at the intersection of two key strategic routes for south London. Currently, traffic congestion is high, bus passengers frequently experience delays during peaks, and there is poor provision for cyclists and pedestrians.

The planned growth and redevelopment of the Croydon Opportunity Area (7,300 homes and 8,000 jobs) will increase journeys in the area, exacerbating the current problems at Fiveways Croydon. In 2013, London Borough Croydon (LBC) also set out their aspiration to develop Waddon (where the Fiveways junction is) as a local centre. LBC has committed £20m to help realise their strategic growth objective alongside development of a people-friendly local centre.

The project unlocks capacity at the Fiveways junction by simplifying its operation to accommodate new journeys arising from the forecast growth. The project seeks specifically to unlock potential for active travel. For example the bridge design adds two 2m cycle lanes where no provision currently exists and introduces a 180m long bus lane on Stafford Road to improve journey times and reliability for 3,000 passengers travelling westbound each day on the 154 and 157 routes. Pedestrian movements are also simplified throughout, as part of ambitious urban realm improvements, making the streets more accessible and people-friendly, supporting the development of Waddon as a local centre.

Proposals include:

- Improvements to the street environment, particularly at Fiveways Corner, through the creation of new public space with places to sit and dwell, and tree planting to provide greening and shade
- New widened footways on Waddon Station Bridge and Fiveways Corner
- Upgraded and simplified pedestrian crossings including Toucan crossings at Fiveways Corner
- Creation of an east-west cycle route to improve cycling links across the A23

As can be seen from the proposals, this project can support the delivery of Healthy Streets outcomes by improving alternatives to car use and creating more accessible and people-friendly streets to encourage more walking and cycling.

The environmental assessment also shows that the net air quality impact of the project is positive. Additionally, there were 52 personal injury collisions in the total scheme area over the 36 months to August 2016 with the scheme estimated to reduce collisions by around 25 per cent.

Transport for London, in conjunction with Croydon Council, will continue to review the scheme as it progresses through consultation to seek further ways to improve its delivery of Healthy Streets outcomes. The public consultation report is currently scheduled to be published in late autumn 2017 with construction scheduled from 2020.