



FORMAL ROUTE TEST NOTES

ROUTES 96, 51, 177, 472

Held on Friday 11th September, 2009

Attendees:

Matthew Preston (MP)	London Buses, Performance
Jenny Cramer (JC)	London Buses, Performance
Sharon Thomas (ST)	TFL, Bus Priority
Colin Ambrose (CA)	London Buses, Network Operations
David Cooper (DC)	London Buses, Network Operations
[REDACTED]	LB of Lewisham
[REDACTED]	LB of Bromley
[REDACTED]	Kent Highway Services
[REDACTED]	ELBG

Introduction

Plumstead Garage recently began using Scania vehicles (10.7m Double Deck). It was necessary to test routes 51, 96, 177 and 472 to ensure that these new vehicles could successfully complete each route safely and to identify any areas where the route could be improved.

The routes were tested in the following order:

Route 96 from Woolwich to Bluewater, returning to Welling.

Route 51 from Welling to Orpington and back to Woolwich.

Route 177 from Thamesmead to Peckham.

Purpose of the test

To identify any areas where improvements could be made along each route and to ensure the Scania vehicles can safely traverse each route.

Issues discussed:

Route 96 towards Bluewater

Hare Street Stop (BP955)

[REDACTED] questioned as to whether the 99 could be moved to the same stop as the 51 and 96 before the Woolwich re-routings happen.

Action: MP/JC to discuss with John Gowers

Lakedale Road Stop (1817, stop D)

It was noted that this stop needs lengthening as too many routes currently use it. The local authority have complained as buses sometimes stop in yellow box to drop off passengers.

Action: DC to put information together and forward to MP/JC. MP/JC to speak to John Gowers

Mayplace Road West/Bexleyheath Clock Tower Stop (23251)

Buses currently have a tight but manageable left turn when entering the stop. Works have been completed on this area recently so it was noted a Section 58 act will still be in place to stop works being performed on the road surface. It was noted that ELBG would like possible minor works to be looked at in the future.

Route 96 towards Woolwich

Westgate Road

There is currently a bus cage marked out on Westgate Road, however it was not thought there were any plans for a stop here.

Action: DW to investigate possible plans.

Market Street Stop L (BP3354)

There is currently a very tight entry point into the stop. This would need to be tracked in any possible redevelopment schemes.

West Hill School Stop (6357)

Markings need to be extended here as cars usually park right up to the cage, making it difficult for the bus to pull into the kerb. The cage here is faded and not long enough for a Scania vehicle. In the short term, the cage needs to be repainted. A longer term plan would be to have bus build outs from Dartford Town Centre to the London boundary.

Action: DW to follow up with Highways Engineers and have the cage repainted in the short term.

John Gowers to advise whether it's acceptable for this stop to remain on a lamp post.

Route 51 towards Orpington

Hook Lane left turn into Westwood Lane

Buses currently swing over the stop line on Westwood Lane. The stop line needs to be moved back about 4 feet.

Action: ST to progress and speak to the borough.

Route 51 towards Woolwich

Swingate Lane telegraph pole (BT 9L971L) opposite Irwin Avenue

A chunk of wood has been knocked out of the pole, probably by a wing mirror. It was noted that the telegraph pole is too close to the road.

Action: CA/ST to report to the local authority. The pole is an estimated 30cm away from the road when it should be at least 40cm.

Route 177 towards Peckham

East Greenwich Library Curtailment Point

This turning point cannot be used at the moment due to roadworks. CA has given permission for Horn Lane roundabout to be used as a turning point but the last stop is a long way back at Rainton Road (18822).

Thamesmead Town Centre Terminus

It was noted the posts on the left hand side when entering the stand have been knocked by buses so this corner needs to be taken slowly.

Conclusion

It was confirmed that Scania vehicles can be used successfully and safely on all the routes. The actions noted above do not need to be completed before Scania vehicles can be used, however should be completed as soon as possible to improve the routes.