# East London stations set for rapid step-free upgrades as TfL accelerates accessibility plans



Council leaders across east London have welcomed Transport for London (TfL)’s new initiative to evaluate 17 Underground stations for potential step-free access, a significant move to enhance accessibility across the capital’s transport network. This comes as part of a broader plan to increase the number of step-free stations on the London Underground from the current 93 out of 272 to at least 136 by 2030, a target set by Mayor Sadiq Khan aimed at making the city’s transport system more inclusive.

Included in the list for assessment are key stations such as Hornchurch in Havering—London’s easternmost borough, primarily served by the Elizabeth line—alongside two stations in Redbridge: Snaresbrook and Barkingside, both on the Central line. Council leaders like Ray Morgon of Havering and Jo Blackman of Redbridge have expressed strong support for the scheme, highlighting the importance of accessible transport for residents with mobility challenges, parents with pushchairs, and elderly passengers. Morgon described the announcement as “delightful,” citing the potential of the improvements to reduce journey times and aid local regeneration efforts. Blackman emphasised the challenge these stations currently pose to less able residents and expressed hope that TfL would move quickly to convert them.

TfL’s chief customer and strategy officer, Alex Williams, has reinforced the organisation’s commitment to expanding accessibility, noting that over a third of the Tube network currently features step-free access and that work is underway on making 10 more stations step-free, with feasibility studies in progress for an additional eight stations. The assessment of these 17 stations is scheduled to start later this year. Other stations listed for potential improvements include Upton Park, Blackhorse Road, and Wood Green, reflecting a concerted effort to address gaps in accessibility across east London and beyond.

This initiative is part of a wider accessibility project across TfL’s network, which already boasts more than 200 step-free stations, including 77 Tube stations, over 60 London Overground stations, all 41 Elizabeth line stations, and all Docklands Light Railway (DLR) stations and tram stops. TfL has also been advancing step-free access at stations such as Colindale, Leyton, and Northolt, with construction scheduled to begin at Northolt next year. The Elizabeth line, in particular, offers a critical east-west link with fully step-free stations, including key interchanges at Paddington, Moorgate, and Farringdon.

Funding for these station improvements comes jointly from TfL and the Department for Transport (DfT), with TfL also seeking third-party funding to accelerate projects. The organisation works closely with local councils and the government, tapping into funds like the 'Levelling Up Fund' to support these accessibility upgrades.

As London's transport network evolves, these steps represent meaningful progress towards the Mayor’s ambition of making 50% of the Tube network step-free by 2030, reflecting a broader commitment to inclusivity and mobility equity for all Londoners.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.yellowad.co.uk/underground-stations-in-east-london-being-assessed-for-step-free-improvements/), [[2]](https://tfl.gov.uk/travel-information/improvements-and-projects/step-free-access), [[6]](https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-london-assembly-does/questions-mayor/find-an-answer/step-free-access-20)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.yellowad.co.uk/underground-stations-in-east-london-being-assessed-for-step-free-improvements/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.yellowad.co.uk/underground-stations-in-east-london-being-assessed-for-step-free-improvements/), [[3]](https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2024/august/tfl-confirms-the-next-12-tube-stations-to-be-prioritised-for-step-free-access), [[5]](https://tfl.gov.uk/transport-accessibility/wheelchair-access-and-avoiding-stairs), [[7]](https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2023/july/tfl-announces-the-next-tube-stations-to-be-prioritised-for-step-free-access-to-meet-the-mayor-s-bold-accessibility-targets)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://tfl.gov.uk/travel-information/improvements-and-projects/step-free-access), [[4]](https://tfl-newsroom.prgloo.com/news/tfl-press-release-step-free-access-arrives-at-four-eastern-tfl-rail-stations), [[5]](https://tfl.gov.uk/transport-accessibility/wheelchair-access-and-avoiding-stairs), [[6]](https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-london-assembly-does/questions-mayor/find-an-answer/step-free-access-20), [[7]](https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2023/july/tfl-announces-the-next-tube-stations-to-be-prioritised-for-step-free-access-to-meet-the-mayor-s-bold-accessibility-targets)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.yellowad.co.uk/underground-stations-in-east-london-being-assessed-for-step-free-improvements/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://tfl.gov.uk/travel-information/improvements-and-projects/step-free-access> - Transport for London (TfL) is enhancing accessibility by making more stations step-free, including 93 Tube stations, over 60 London Overground stations, and all 41 Elizabeth line stations. The goal is to have at least 136 step-free stations by 2030, with ongoing projects at Colindale, Leyton, and Northolt stations. TfL is also working towards 50% of the Tube network being step-free by 2030, with 17 additional stations being assessed for step-free access.
3. <https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2024/august/tfl-confirms-the-next-12-tube-stations-to-be-prioritised-for-step-free-access> - TfL has announced plans to make Alperton, Arnos Grove, and Eastcote Underground stations step-free, building on previous feasibility work. Additionally, seven other stations, including Colliers Wood and Tooting Broadway, will undergo assessments for step-free access feasibility. Construction at Northolt station is scheduled to start early next year, with design work commencing at North Acton and West Hampstead stations.
4. <https://tfl-newsroom.prgloo.com/news/tfl-press-release-step-free-access-arrives-at-four-eastern-tfl-rail-stations> - TfL has introduced step-free access at four eastern TfL Rail stations, contributing to over 200 step-free stations across the TfL network. This includes 77 Tube stations, 58 Overground stations, six TfL Rail stations, and all DLR stations and tram stops. TfL's station improvement schemes are jointly funded by Transport for London and the Department for Transport (DfT).
5. <https://tfl.gov.uk/transport-accessibility/wheelchair-access-and-avoiding-stairs> - TfL is improving accessibility by introducing more step-free access across its network, including Tube, bus, and river services. All bus routes are served by low-floor vehicles with dedicated space for one wheelchair user and an access ramp. Around a third of Tube stations, half of Overground stations, most piers, all tram stops, the IFS Cloud Cable Car, and all DLR stations have step-free access.
6. <https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-london-assembly-does/questions-mayor/find-an-answer/step-free-access-20> - The Elizabeth line provides a key new east-west link across London, serving step-free stations at the heart of the city. All London Underground stations with interchanges to the Elizabeth line, such as Paddington, Moorgate, Ealing Broadway, Farringdon, and Whitechapel, will have step-free interchanges. TfL has prioritised stations for step-free access based on strategic importance, aiming to deliver an equitable spread of step-free stations across London.
7. <https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2023/july/tfl-announces-the-next-tube-stations-to-be-prioritised-for-step-free-access-to-meet-the-mayor-s-bold-accessibility-targets> - TfL has outlined ten London Underground stations to be reviewed for potential step-free access, including Alperton, Arnos Grove, Burnt Oak, Eastcote, Finchley Road, Northolt, North Acton, Rayners Lane, West Hampstead, and White City. TfL is also working with the Government and local boroughs to access the 'Levelling Up Fund' to start work in 2024 to make Colindale and Leyton Tube stations step-free.