

**Sadiq Khan**  
**Mayor of London**  
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6 Jan 2017 — Dear Petitioner

Thank you for the petition submitted on the change.org website.  
Transport for London (TfL) supports the principle of improving connectivity between Waltham Forest and Stratford.

Reinstating the Hall Farm Curve is one possible means to achieve this by reintroducing services from Chingford to Stratford. However, platform capacity at Stratford makes this option difficult and expensive in practice. There is limited space for the construction of additional platforms at Stratford and these would cost in the region of £400m due to acquisition of non-railway land and the need to bridge over existing rail infrastructure to reach the site.

The new Stratford to Angel Road (STAR) service, from the Meridian Water development at Angel Road via Tottenham Hale, will use up all remaining platform capacity at Stratford station. Once introduced, STAR services will provide a convenient alternative route for customers travelling between Walthamstow Central and Stratford, via a change at Tottenham Hale.

Customers who previously travelled by bus between the Chingford / Walthamstow Central areas and Stratford can also already benefit from a reduced journey time by rail via the Hackney Interchange. This connection between Hackney Downs and Hackney Central stations, which opened last year, has improved connectivity between the London Overground Chingford branch and Stratford, a journey which now takes just 30 minutes. By comparison, a bus journey between Walthamstow Central and Stratford currently takes up to 50 minutes.

Other rail improvements already introduced or in progress that will benefit the Waltham Forest area include:

- On the London Overground route between Chingford and Liverpool Street, new higher capacity trains will start to be introduced from late 2018.
- On London Underground all Victoria line trains now call at Walthamstow Central. The line operates 34 trains per hour during peak hours which is the highest in the UK. This is an increase on the previous timetable where a number of trains started and terminated at Seven Sisters. Future upgrades may increase the service frequency further to 36 trains per hour.
- New Elizabeth line services to/from Abbey Wood in December 2018 will improve connectivity and reduce journey times between the Chingford route and Canary Wharf through a new interchange at Liverpool Street.

Any additional train services on the Chingford branch via Hall Farm Curve would have an adverse impact on level crossing closure times at Highams Park, and on traffic congestion in the wider area.

Unfortunately, TfL has no funding for the reinstatement of Hall Farm Curve, and Network Rail has not included the scheme in its choices for funding for the next financial settlement period.

Yours sincerely

Public Liaison Unit  
Greater London Authority

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## Comments

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Travelling via Tottenham Hale involves 3 trains for passengers from Chingford, Highams Park or Wood Street compared with 1 if Hall Farm re-opened.

Trains from Tottenham Hale arriving at Stratford come into two dedicated platforms which I do not believe are used for any