

## Let's trial Hammersmith Bridge as a world-class walking & cycling link in Summer 2019

17 June 2019

**ATTN:** Cllr Stephen Cowan, Leader, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

**CC:** Heidi Alexander, Deputy Mayor of London for Transport;  
Will Norman, Mayor of London's Walking and Cycling Commissioner

**RE: Let's trial Hammersmith Bridge as a world-class walking & cycling link in Summer 2019**

Dear Cllr Cowan and Deputy Mayor Alexander,

The most recent closure of Hammersmith Bridge provides a great opportunity to trial the bridge as world-class walking and cycling link across the Thames. This would boost local business and make the area a more desirable place to live, work, and visit during the closure period.

Built in 1887,<sup>1</sup> the bridge's latest structural problems are the most recent reminder that this unique river crossing was never designed to handle today's heavy traffic loads. The current closure is an opportunity to showcase this outstanding example of Victorian engineering as a piece of urban infrastructure that creates true public value. Becoming a planted shared space for use between pedestrians, cyclists, and local businesses, the bridge and its onramps could become new public realm for Londoners and visitors to the city to enjoy.

Testing the bridge as a landscaped walking and cycling link starting in the summer months would provide a cost-effective and economically and socially useful function for the bridge while the repair schedule is determined.

Hammersmith is a global centre for innovation and growth, and the open bridge could showcase zero emissions passenger services to ferry low mobility residents and visitors across the river (e.g PedalMe, e-rickshaws, or e-golf carts) and become a destination in its own right with Chelsea Flower Show-inspired native planting and landscape architecture running the length of the bridge.

This is also an important opportunity to test research on the positive economic impacts of walking and cycling infrastructure in partnership with the Hammersmith BID and their members.<sup>2</sup> The bridge could be opened up as a local market on weekends. For example, William Tierney Clark's sister suspension bridge across the Danube in Budapest is used for highly successful weekend markets.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> The Hammersmith bridge designed by Tierney Clark and completed in 1827 was the first suspension bridge over the Thames. The current bridge, completed in 1887 was designed by Sir Joseph Bazalgette and sits on the pier foundations from Clark's earlier bridge.

<sup>2</sup> TfL 'Economic benefits of walking and cycling:'

<https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/publications-and-reports/economic-benefits-of-walking-and-cycling>

<sup>3</sup> The Széchenyi Chain Bridge, designed by Tierney Clark and completed in 1839, crosses the Danube and is an important piece of world architectural and industrial engineering history.

## **Let's trial Hammersmith Bridge as a world-class walking & cycling link in Summer 2019**

### **Benefits of using the bridge as a dedicated walking and cycling link would include:**

- New public space to enjoy suspended above the river and at both ends of the bridge
- New planting to increase biodiversity
- Reduced emissions by restricting private vehicular access to emergency vehicles
- Improved air quality, particularly for local schools
- The Bridge would become the centre point of a figure-8 walking route connecting Putney-Fulham-Barnes-Hammersmith-Chiswick

**We look forward to hearing about the actions you plan to take to seize the opportunity to showcase Hammersmith Bridge as walking and cycling link across the Thames starting this summer.**

Thank you.

Marco Picardi

Hamish Stewart

### **Co-Founders**

**London Car Free Day**

[www.londoncarfreeday.com](http://www.londoncarfreeday.com)

...

### **Supporters**

#### **Community Groups and NGOs**

1. London Car Free Day
2. London Living Street
3. Inner London Ramblers
4. Richmond Ramblers
5. Urbanwise.London
6. Hounslow Cycling Campaign
7. Abundance London
8. Hammersmith and Fulham Cyclists
9. W6 Safe Cycling Families
10. Doctors for Safe Cycling

**Let's trial Hammersmith Bridge as a world-class walking & cycling link in Summer 2019**

...

**Below are two artists' impressions of what the bridge could look like as an exemplary piece of active travel infrastructure.**



Let's trial Hammersmith Bridge as a world-class walking & cycling link in Summer 2019

