

JULIA LOPEZ MP
Hornchurch & Upminster



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

2 November 2023

Dear Secretary of State,

ACCESS FOR ALL APPLICATION FOR UPMINSTER STATION

I am writing to you following recent announcements concerning HS2. I was pleased to read of the Government's commitment to improving the accessibility of train stations in the Network North announcement, by way of spending a further £350 million to improve accessibility for up to 100 train stations. Following this announcement, I wanted to highlight with you a campaign I have been running for several years to secure step-free access to Platform 6 at Upminster Station as part of my bid to make public transport in Hornchurch & Upminster as accessible as possible. I have worked closely with C2C on this project who have twice submitted Access for All (AFA) funding bids, most recently in September 2022.

Upminster Station has step-free access to the platform for the C2C services and District Line services, however access to Platform 6 for the London Overground Upminster-Romford branch is via stairs. This is both the only platform within Upminster Station and on this branch of the London Overground not to have step-free access. It is worth acknowledging that the entirety of the Elizabeth Line service has step-free access making Platform 6 a particular glaring omission from an otherwise very accessible corner of the TfL network.

The London Overground Upminster-Romford service acts as a vital link for C2C services between London Fenchurch Street and Shoeburyness to the Elizabeth Line travelling through central London to Heathrow Airport. Making that platform accessible would be especially valuable for those with cases who want to get to Heathrow on the Elizabeth Line or older people, parents with buggies and disabled people who want to go to work, shop or socialise in Romford.



As noted earlier, C2C have supported two previous AFA bids for this scheme. Within these bids we have collected over 1,000 signatories to a petition alongside the support of the local authority, the London Assembly Member and local disability groups. Regrettably, we have not received an outcome to the bid submitted in September of last year, however, for the reasons outlined at the start of this letter, I continue to consider that the scheme is vital to the local transport network ensuring that all travellers may easily access Elizabeth Line services and other critical transport links.

Given the recent reallocation of £350 million of HS2 funds to improve accessibility at 100 stations, I would greatly welcome your consideration of this particular accessibility challenge and advice on how schemes will be considered for access to the above funding.

With best wishes,

Julia Lopez MP