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Tramlink Route 4 launched with expanded fleet

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Mayor of London Boris Johnson has launched London Tramlink's new Route 4, providing additional passenger capacity on tram lines through Croydon.

The four tram-per-hour Route 4 runs from Therapia Lane to Elmers End via Croydon town centre and increases the number of trams on this part of the network from eight to 12 at peak times. It has been planned to relieve overcrowding on existing routes.

Laying on the new route has been made possible by a £16.3m investment in six new Stadler Variobahn trams, funded by Transport for London with a £3m contribution from Croydon Council, all of which are now in service.

Boris Johnson said: "These superb new tram services are essential to Croydon's long term prosperity, which in turn feeds into the capital's economic success. Fast and efficient transport links not only make Croydon a more convenient place to live and work, but also attract businesses that will deliver much-needed jobs and economic growth putting Croydon firmly on track for the future."

Croydon Council leader Mike Fisher added: "We have invested £3m into this project to help boost local infrastructure and it's further evidence of our commitment to the regeneration of our borough."

Meanwhile, work continues to dual track the section on the Tramlink Wimbledon branch between Mitcham and Mitcham Junction. When completed this will improve reliability on the line and in the longer term allow an increase in tram frequencies. TfL is working with Network Rail on plans to build a second tram platform at Wimbledon station.

The six new Stadler trams are each made up of five sections with each tram having 84 seats and space for 122 passengers standing. They supplement the 24 CR4000 Bombardier vehicles that have operated on the system since it opened in 2000. Tramlink is now used by more than 29 million passengers a year.

Variobahn: six new trams built by Stadler in Germany have been added to south London fleet



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