



Mr Gareth Powell  
Transport for London  
197 Blackfriars Road  
London  
SE1 8NJ  
By email to: [GarethPowell@tfl.gov.uk](mailto:GarethPowell@tfl.gov.uk)

Bankside Residents' Forum  
18 Great Guildford Street  
London  
SE1 0FD  
E: [info@banksideresidentsforum.org](mailto:info@banksideresidentsforum.org)

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018

Dear Gareth Powell

Thank you for responding to the Bankside Residents' Forum letter about the reduction of service of the RV1 bus.

We respectfully suggest that the answers you give are inadequate. It would seem that nobody has investigated how the various routes have been operating in the last year and how they are actually used by residents, workers and visitors.

Please see our comments in red.

"Passenger demand for the RV1 has been falling for a number of years, with a significant drop over the last twelve months."

Passenger Use has reduced in the last year because of several changes to the route. East bound - specifically: not serving Tooley Street and crossing London Bridge instead of giving access to Tower Bridge Road and parts of Bermondsey. Many people used to use the Abbots Lane or Potters Fields stops to access Tesco in Tooley Street or Southwark Council offices at 160 Tooley Street. In addition bus stops have been subject to frequent closure due to road works.

Users of this route: there are elderly people, some with limited mobility; residents in 4 separate places along the route: Hopton's Almshouse, Hopton Street, (W end of Southwark Street), Edward Edwards House (Nicholson Street), Southwark Street Peabody Estate and at Lucy Brown House (Park Street near Hop Exchange). Many tourists (often in groups/students/families) accessing Bankside sites and Covent Garden; workers - mainly short journeys from work to London Bridge station around 5pm.

"There are alternative routes to the RV1. It is paralleled by the 381 between Waterloo and City Hall."

It is impossible to use the eastbound RV1 and 381 interchangeably at Waterloo due to the distance between the RV1 stop Y previously outside All Bar One in Chicheley Street and now much further on at stop Q by the RFH and the 381 on York Road.

To travel from Waterloo Mainline Station to Southwark Street the same problem exists: the RV1 stop Q on Upper Ground and stop V on York Road are not close to each other.

Eastbound: the 381 has been on a long-term diversion avoiding Tooley Street, meaning there is only the RV1 bus access along Southwark Street to Hop Exchange/London Bridge Station or Guy's Hospital.

Westbound: yes it is possible to travel on either bus from Borough High Street/Hop Exchange to Waterloo for the station and hospitals.

"the 78 and 42 between City Hall and Tower Gateway"

Neither the RV1 nor 381 are currently interchangeable with the 78 or 42 at present on Tooley Street.

"and by many routes between Waterloo and Aldwych."

There is no straight forward interchange between the East - West routes and the buses travelling north across Waterloo Bridge. The pedestrian routes involve crossing busy roads.

"It is also paralleled by the Jubilee line and national rail services between Waterloo, Waterloo East and London Bridge."

Yes there is a Jubilee line link between Waterloo and London Bridge but the Waterloo East/Southwark tube is not necessarily convenient for accessing Southwark Street.

Further point:

With a regular 10min service it is usually worth waiting for a bus for what is a journey of 3 stops from one end of Southwark Street to the other. With a 20 min service it is quicker to walk (albeit along a poor air quality route) or a long uncomfortable and cold wait (no seats at bus stops SM or SN. SL 381 stop has seats but is some distance if you are waiting for the RV1) and a wind tunnel effect from local tall buildings.

We suggest that the reduction in use has arisen through changes and uncertainties in the RV1 route, notably the long term diversion via London Bridge rather than Tower Bridge. We would predict that passenger use would return with a reinstatement of the previous routing along with a 10 minute service and therefore request such a reinstatement.

We support the use of the hydrogen fuel buses to reduce emission levels along a heavily used Southwark Street.

We note that in the last few weeks the RV1 has been restored to continue along Tooley Street and the 381 has come off diversion via Great Dover Street. This is welcomed while it lasts.

Yours sincerely

**Marion Marples**

Bankside Residents' Forum

**Amir Eden**

Chair Bankside Residents' Forum