

London's Tube to get blanket mobile reception by 2024

Article

The news: London's mayor Sadiq Khan announced passengers on the London Underground will have mobile reception **by 2024**, [per](#) The Verge. If all goes according to plan, Khan's campaign would bring **mobile connectivity** throughout the entire Tube network comes just as ridership has **plummeted** due to the pandemic.

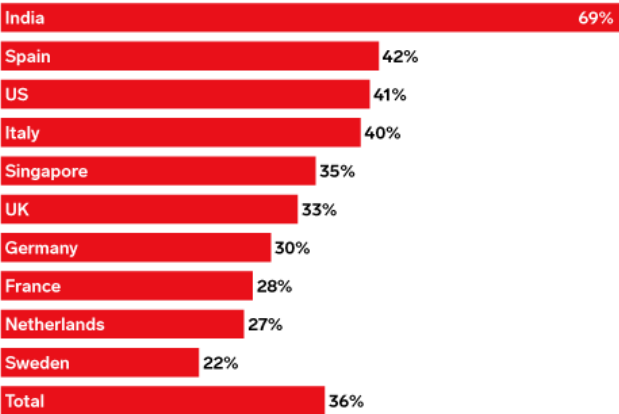
The project, a partnership with **BAI Communications**, requires laying **1,242 miles of cabling** within tunnels and stations, and could have a financial upside for the transport authority. The cabling installed in the London Underground will also improve connections in surrounding buildings and **increase overall 4G and future 5G coverage**, per city transit authority Transport for London.

The bigger picture: Enabling reliable mobile connectivity in a city’s subway network is one of the bigger challenges facing local governments and their network partners around the world. Offering connectivity in public transport has been a mostly aspirational objective for larger cities, but the lack of planning and telco partnerships is a constant challenge.

London’s move to provide end-to-end connectivity by 2024 **could serve as a blueprint** for other large cities to deploy their own transit connectivity infrastructure. Extending cellular networks into subways also has wider implications for developing successful smart-city projects.

Adults in Select Countries Who Would Be Willing to Pay More for Smart City Initiatives, April 2020

% of respondents



Note: n=10,000 ages 18+ who reside in cities; respondents were prompted with the statement, "I would be willing to pay more to access smart city initiatives because I want to live in a highly developed and connected city"
Source: Capgemini Research Institute, "Street Smart: Putting the citizen at the center of smart city initiatives," July 27, 2020