07 February 2013

Lift works for historic tunnels prior to refurbishment

Cyclists and pedestrians are being advised of forthcoming planned lift closures at the historic Grade II-listed Tyne Pedestrian and Cyclist Tunnels.

Work will take place on the vertical lifts over the weekends of the 22-25 February and 1-4 March. Only one lift will be out of service at any one time.

The tunnels are due to close for a year for refurbishment at the end of March.

Paul Fenwick, project director for the tunnels' owner, the Tyne & Wear Integrated Transport Authority said: "We have scheduled these works for the weekend so as to reduce the inconvenience to commuters who rely on the tunnels to get to and from work.

"The lifts were installed in 2010 and it is fair to say they have had reliability issues. These repairs are needed to replace the faulty components we have now identified as the cause of our earlier reliability problems.

"With the escalators out of service too cyclists in particular might struggle to negotiate the tunnels. I would urge people to avoid using the tunnels over these weekends if they think they may face physical difficulties going up or down the stationary escalators."

Work will start on the lifts after 6pm on Fridays and will be completed before 6am on Mondays.

Ends