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LONDON
REGIONAL
TRANSPORT



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NEW CITY RAIL LINK TO DOCKLANDS PROPOSED

Plans for an extension of the Docklands Light Railway into the heart of the City were revealed today. The extension, which would be financed by private capital, would enable trains to run through to Bank Underground station.

The Docklands Light Railway, now being constructed at a cost of £77 million, terminates at Minories car park on the City's eastern boundary. The extension to Bank will provide an interchange with the Underground and so help integrate Docklands with the rest of London.

London Regional Transport today began consultations with local and other authorities on the proposal. Parliamentary powers are expected to be sought in the 1985-6 session, subject to Government approval. Completion of the extension is planned for 1988.

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The backers are the international consortium which is planning to construct a fl.5 billion financial and business centre on Canary Wharf in the West India Docks. The consortium comprises affiliates of Financiere Credit-Suisse First Boston, Morgan Stanley International and First Boston Docklands Associates.

The plan involves constructing a twin tunnel some 1.5 km long. It would leave the existing route just east of the Minories terminus, run westward to Trinity Square, and continue under the District Line to Monument where it would turn to run under King William Street to Bank. This route would avoid problems with foundations of existing buildings.

The consortium has asked Mowlem, the construction group already heavily involved in Docklands, to prepare the scheme. As well as working on consultation, London Regional Transport is preparing the necessary legislation, at no cost to the public purse. LRT and GEC-Mowlem are already working together on the first stage of the Docklands Light Railway.

"Our participation in this scheme is a vote of confidence in Docklands and in the future of London as an international financial centre", said Mr G. Ware Travelstead of First Boston on behalf of the consortium.

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LRT is also working with the London Docklands Development Corporation on an eastwards extension of the light railway, for which Parliamentary powers are also to be sought in the 1985-6 session.

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Press enquiries will be handled on behalf of the consortium by Maurice Colton or Jane Pickering on 01-638 9571.
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