

News Release

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BRIDGE FLOATS IN FOR NEW ROAD LINK

A new bridge - weighing 1500 tonnes - arrives in the Royal Docks this weekend, by barge from Holland, bringing a vital link in the Docklands £650 million highways network a major step closer to completion.

The cable-stayed swing bridge will cross the dock cutting between the Royal Victoria and Royal Albert Docks, as part of the London Docklands Development Corporation's £24 million Connaught Crossing road scheme. Design and construction supervision of the project is being carried out by Sir William Halcrow & Partners. The dual carriageway Connaught Crossing will link North Woolwich Road and Factory Road, in the south, to Connaught Road and the new Royal Albert Dock Spine Road, in the north, with roundabouts at both junctions. A third roundabout forms an eastward link to Connaught Road and London City Airport and a westward link to the Pontoon Dock area.

The first phase of the scheme, the southern section, was built by Norwest Holst and completed earlier this year. Construction of the middle section by Peter Birse Ltd, including the new swing bridge, is scheduled to open to traffic in February 1990. The final section, to the north, also under construction by Peter Birse, should be completed in Autumn 1990.

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The 80 m cable-stayed swing bridge has been constructed and painted by Hollandia in Rotterdam prior to being floated across the North Sea and up the Thames this weekend.

Once the bridge arrives in the Royal Albert Dock, via the King George V Lock, it will be lowered onto a conical base with skid beams and swung into position. The bridge, with concrete viaducts to the north and south, will have a clearance of 5.5 metres to allow small boats to pass underneath.

For further information, please contact:

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