

News Release

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FOUNDATIONS LAID FOR LOWER LEA CROSSING

Construction on the Lower Lea Crossing in London Docklands was firmly established today when the Hon. Colin Moynihan MP drove in the foundation piles for a 235 metre bridge across the River Lea.

The bridge, which forms part of a 1km highway running parallel and south of the A13 trunk road, will link the Royal Docks to the Isle of Dogs. The £25.5 million project is being built by Norwest Holst Construction Ltd and forms part of the London Docklands Development Corporation's £650 million highways programme.

Speaking at today's ceremony, Mr Moynihan said: "Improving access to Docklands is crucial. I am pleased that the LDDC, with the Government's support, is tackling this challenge head-on. To the east of the River Lea, major new highways are already completed or are well advanced. To the west, huge and innovative road schemes - including the Limehouse Link - are on course or firmly programmed. This splendid new bridge over the River Lea, when completed in early 1992, will directly link the eastern and western areas of Docklands for the first time."

LDDC Chief Executive, Michael Honey, added: "The bridge is a key link in the London Docklands' road system and further enhances the infrastructure serving London's new business centre. It demonstrates our continuing commitment to transforming access to the area, both by car and by public transport."

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Lower Lea Crossing will connect the new roundabout at the south of Leamouth Road, to the south east of the reclaimed East India Dock, with a new roundabout to be built under Silvertown Way viaduct at the western end of Royal Victoria Dock.

The dual two lane road includes a 235 metre four-span box girder bridge which will span the River Lea 9.4 metres above high water level. This will allow shipping movements to continue along the river. Local access to existing and new developments will be located on either side of the River Lea and a separate cycle and pedestrian route will be provided as part of the construction contract.

The scheme was designed by the Mott MacDonald Group, landscape architects were William Gillespie & Partners and quantity surveyors Franklin and Andrews.