

News Release

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POPLAR LINK HIGHWAY SCHEME REFERRED TO SECRETARY OF STATE

A planning application for the Poplar Link road will be sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment, the Rt Hon. Nicholas Ridley, MP, following consideration by the London Docklands Development Corporation's (LDDC) Planning Committee today.

The application, by consulting engineers Mott Hay and Anderson, will be referred as a departure from the statutory local plan, but the Secretary of State will be informed that the LDDC would wish to grant the application.

The application covers land and buildings between Commercial Road/East India Dock Road and West India Dock Road/Ming Street junctions and at the junction of Pennyfields and Ming Street; land at Billingsgate Market; land east of Blackwall Way; land south of Nos. 32-40 Ming Street and land comprising part of the Shed 35 (North Quay) site. A substantial part of the Poplar Link scheme, east of Ming Street, lies in the Isle of Dogs Enterprise Zone.

The road will primarily provide access to the Isle of Dogs from the west linking the Commercial Road/East India Dock Road and Prestons Road to the various developments through the North Quay area. It will also be used as an access route to and from other parts of Docklands.

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From the west, the Poplar Link scheme includes improvements to West India Dock Road, including the temporary realignment of the junction with East India Dock Road. A 1.4 km dual carriageway road will continue the alignment of West India Dock Road, eastwards along the north of the Isle of Dogs, upgrading the road already built along this corridor.

A flyover across the roundabout at Prestons Road is planned, as well as signalled junctions to serve the North Quay area and Stoneyard Lane. Access to the Docklands Light Railway Depot, Poplar Business Park and Billingsgate Market will also be provided.

Pedestrian and cycle crossings are proposed at five points between West India Dock Road and Prestons Road roundabout, including a bridge from Poplar DLR Station linking with routes through Stoneyard Lane and North Quay on either side of the road.

The proposed four-lane Limehouse Link 'cut and cover' tunnel will connect to the Poplar Link, at North Quay.

Under the Accord agreed with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in June this year, arrangements are being made to protect tenants and residents living in Ming Street, Pennyfields, Dingle Gardens and Dolphin House, from the impact of the Poplar Link Road. In addition a number of tenants living in this area will be rehoused at the expense of the Corporation.

For further information contact:

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