



News Release

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HESELTINE OPENS LOWER LEA CROSSING THREE MONTHS EARLY

Environment Secretary Michael Heseltine is to open the £28 million Lower Lea Crossing on Monday, 16 December, three months ahead of schedule.

The construction of the Lower Lea Crossing is an essential part of London Docklands' £3.5 billion transport infrastructure programme. This is the first time that there is a direct connection between the Isle of Dogs and the Royal Docks. Together with the West India Dock Road widening (giving an upgraded western connection to the A13), which will be complete on 20 December six months ahead of schedule, these schemes will ease traffic flow to the Isle of Dogs. Residents and workers will therefore be able to reduce their journey times to and from the area.

Photo Opportunities

There will be four key photo opportunities during the event. The programme is as follows:

- 09.15am** Press to assemble at LDDC reception at Thames Quay, 191 Marsh Wall, London E14. (Closest DLR station is South Quay).
- 09.30am** London City Airport coach takes press to the centre span of Lower Lea Crossing for first photo opportunity.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY 1

10.00am The Rt Hon Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, arrives at centre span of bridge in red service bus with David Hardy, Chairman LDDC, Cllr Barry Blandford, Mayor of London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Cllr Ramjit Singh, Mayor of London Borough of Newham, Michael Pickard, Deputy Chairman LDDC, Eric Sorensen, Chief Executive LDDC and representatives from consultant, Mott McDonald and contractor Norwest Holst.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY 2

Secretary of State invites Cllr Blandford and Cllr Singh to cut the ceremonial ribbon to formally open the bridge.

Security personnel remove barriers to permit traffic flow across the west-bound carriageway.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY 3

London City Airport bus is the first vehicle to drive across the bridge on the west-bound carriageway.

10.20am Press corps board coach and depart along east-bound carriageway to eastern access roundabout and back along west-bound carriageway returning to the marquee in Orchard Place.

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PHOTO OPPORTUNITY 4

10.30am The Rt Hon Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, speaks, and concludes by unveiling a bronze plaque.

10.45am David Hardy bids farewell to the Secretary of State.

Guests return to marquee for coffee.

11.00am Event concludes.

All timings are approximate.

- ENDS -

For further information contact:

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