

CONNECT 4: SESSION 4

SUSTAINABLE CITIES: REINVENTING THE RIVER

Speaker

Alistair Gale
Ciron Edwards
David Ebbrell
Rachael Aldridge

Organisation

Port of London Authority
The Illuminated River Foundation
Cross River Partnership
Cross River Partnership

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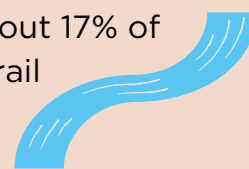


KEY FACTS

At 3.2 miles in length, Illuminated River spans from London to Lambeth bridges, making it the longest public art commission in the world. It will last for at least ten years and the Foundation will fund all maintenance, replacement and electricity costs.



According to the PLA's Air Quality Strategy for the Tidal Thames, across Europe, energy consumption per km/tonne of good moved by waterways has been calculated to be about 17% of that of road and 50% of rail transport.



In June 2021, Guys and St Thomas' Trust ran a trial transporting essential hospital equipment from Dartford, Kent County Council, to Butlers Wharf, London Borough of Southwark. This journey was around an hour and downstream of Tower Bridge, boats can go up to 30mph. In central London, there is a speed limit of around 15 mph.



RESOURCES

[CRP's Connect 4 Series: Session 4 Presentation slides](#)

[CRP's Annual Report and Business Plan](#)

[Port of London Authority: Thames Vision](#)

[The Illuminated River South Bank ArtTrail Illustrated Map](#)

[Light Freight: Design Solutions for Thames Freight Infrastructure](#)

[Clean Air Villages 4: Butler's Wharf and Dartford Pier](#)

[CRP's Clean Air Logistics for London](#)

[Click here to sign up to CRP's next session Tackling Air Pollution Through Technology. Thursday 26th May 2022, 4pm - 4:45pm](#)



Question: Are there plans for more cycle paths and walking/running paths for the river?

Answer: Illuminated River is pleased to have made a positive impact on the experience of walking, running and cycling along the river, not only with the artwork but our close collaborations with the boroughs either side. Ciron mentioned the efforts the City of London made to considering lighting on their bridges and within policy, but they, along with Southwark Council also worked on the existing street and footway lights along the banks, replacing bulbs and making sure they were all colour matched. In addition, riparian boroughs are continually seeking to enable increased and safe walking, running and cycling along and to the river, and a 'source to sea' continuous path has recently been completed to this end.

Question: What work is being done to ensure the river transport can be used by substantially loaded cargo bikes?

Answer: CRP's Light Freight Design Solutions for Thames Freight Infrastructure includes analysis on adapting piers for light freight, including a section specifically on the feasibility of loading onto cargo bikes and access for cargo bikes. Sections 2 and 4 of the report give more information on how adapting piers to cargo bikes would be likely to work in practice.

Question: Could we have more "river shuttles" that combine passengers and freight in the future?

Answer: This could be a useful solution, especially for smaller businesses with less volume of freight, for whom chartering a vessel all to themselves might be cost prohibitive. All of this can be discussed by a business with the PLA and vessel operator prior to beginning a river freight pilot.

Question: We have been looking to get back to using the river to deliver beer to the hospitality vessels using the Thames but have been frustrated by the lack of response to our members requests for costings, why does this take so long to organise?

Answer: Get in touch with Cross River Partnership - CRP Project Manager Kate Fenton katefenton@crossriverpartnership.org - with more information as we have contacts who may be able to help.