

**On Track for Sustainable Logistics:  
Cross River Partnership publishes new study on rail freight**

[Cross River Partnership](#) (CRP), a non-profit and impartial partnership organisation, is excited to launch its latest **Rail Freight Study** - "[On track for sustainable logistics: Integrating Rail Freight into London's deliveries](#)".

This study investigates the opportunity to **use existing infrastructure** in the London boroughs of Southwark and Lambeth to **support efficient and sustainable movement of freight into Central London using rail**. We are investigating whether London's rail network can support more of the city's freight. Transporting more goods by train would reduce the number of polluting vans on London's roads, improving air quality and people's health.

A shortage of HGV drivers and equipment, rising fuel prices, increasing traffic congestion and emissions regulations is pushing the logistics sector to explore alternative delivery solutions.

The rise of low-volume, high-margin markets requiring fast delivery, such as fast-fashion, were identified as being suitable for fast rail freight. 4,000 tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sup>2</sup>) could be saved each year by using rail freight, **which could take 8,300 HGVs off the road**. For London to reach its net zero targets, there has to be a [27% reduction in kilometres travelled by car by 2030](#).

CRP commissioned this study with the [Great British Railways Transition Team](#) (GBRTT) as part of the [Impact on Urban Health](#)-funded [Clean Air Freight](#) (CAF) project, with support from the London boroughs of [Southwark](#) and [Lambeth](#). This report explores how moving freight goods by rail can support their goals of reducing polluting road-freight vehicles and achieving better air quality for the residents of London.

CAF explores how to prepare for more rail freight deliveries into London, including investigating the potential of passenger trains to carry freight, and also trial zero emission last mile logistics from a potential Freight Hub at Waterloo Station. [Steer](#) carried out this research, which follows on from CRP's recent [rail freight feasibility study](#), completed in June 2022.

This study identifies two concepts for a trial:

1. "Passengers as Parcels" - Using existing high speed passenger services to move low volumes of goods into and out of stations in London.
2. "Dedicated Freight Multiple Unit (FMU)" – Using a converted high-speed passenger train to transport high volumes of goods from freight hubs into and out of London stations.

The study revealed interest from the logistics market in both concepts, to realise fast, same-day delivery into London. **London Waterloo Station has been shortlisted as a good potential location for trials to take place in accommodating increased rail freight.**

CRP is unlocking potential and transforming space to support the logistics sector in London with alternative freight modes, and deliver solutions that make London fairer, greener and safer. This report supports CRP's vision to make London a better place to live, work and visit. Watch this space for the London Light Freight Walking Trial, launching soon!

**Amandeep Kellay, Portfolio Manager, Impact on Urban Health, said:** *"Air pollution has devastating effects on people's health. It particularly affects the vulnerable people in our communities, like children. While the movement of goods into and around London is essential, these deliveries significantly contribute to poor air quality."*

*A bigger role for rail in transporting freight into London would mean fewer lorries and vans entering London, faster deliveries, and cleaner air for all. This research shows that improving air quality is the right thing for our health and business."*

**Peter, Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill, Chair of Network Rail, said:** *"Great British Railways Transition Team are pleased to be supporting Cross River Partnership's study into how Express Railfreight can positively impact emissions from the logistics sector. Rail freight presents a great opportunity to reduce transport pollutants across London through fewer vans and lorries on our roads, providing better air quality for all through the rail network."*

**Councillor Catherine Rose, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Parks, Streets and Clean Air, London Borough of Southwark, said:** *"Southwark is excited that this rail study and supporting work centred on Waterloo Station acts to complement our neighbouring work on river freight near London Bridge. Twin tracks to delivering net-zero logistics and modern freight services, putting Cross River Partnership at the heart of distributing goods to companies and businesses across London, by the best ways possible."*

**Cllr Rezina Chowdhury, Cabinet Member for Sustainable Lambeth and Clean Air, said:** *"We have a collective plan as a borough to tackle the climate emergency here in Lambeth, and to do it fairly and swiftly. This includes achieving zero direct emissions from freight, delivery and trade by 2030, an aim that this shift directly supports."*

**Richard Aitken, Associate, Steer, said:** *"The positive impacts on same day delivery presented by this use of rail freight show that environmental improvement, wellbeing and a good business case are not mutually exclusive. Steer is delighted to have supported this study which has the potential to improve quality of life for surrounding communities. Not only does our work on this project build on our extensive rail and logistics experience, it is also another step on our mission to help our clients reduce their carbon emissions."*



**Ross Phillips, Sustainable Transport Manager at Cross River Partnership, said:** *“There is a great opportunity to utilise rail for delivering freight to and from central London. CRP’s report clearly highlights this and identifies the actions needed to make this a reality. We are excited to work with our partners and the rail industry to facilitate the increased use of rail for freight going forward.”*

**ENDS**

**March 2023**

## NOTES TO EDITORS

Main report - <https://crossriverpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/On-track-for-sustainable-logistics-Integrating-Rail-Freight-into-Londons-deliveries-Full-Report.pdf>

Summary report - <https://crossriverpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/On-track-for-sustainable-logistics-Integrating-Rail-Freight-into-Londons-deliveries-Summary-Report.pdf>

### Report Contents

1. Desktop Review
2. Market Engagement and Feedback
3. Southwark and Lambeth – Stations Suitability Review
4. Summary of Findings and Recommended Action Plan

### Clean Air Freight (CAF)

[Clean Air Freight](#) (CAF) is an [Impact on Urban Health](#)-funded project helping the freight sector to deliver clean air as part of the [Guy's and St Thomas' Foundation](#). The project will minimise the harmful emissions from freight within the [London Borough of Lambeth](#) and the [London Borough of Southwark](#).

### Cross River Partnership

[Cross River Partnership](#) (CRP) is a partnership delivering environmental, economic and community-focused projects. We support public, private and voluntary organisations to address creatively challenges around Air Quality, Transport, Placemaking and Wellbeing.

### Greater British Railways Transition Team

The [Great British Railways Transition Team \(GBRTT\)](#) seeks to deliver the most ambitious changes to our railways in a generation, working with the government and across the rail sector.

### Impact on Urban Health

[Impact on Urban Health](#) are a part of Guy's & St Thomas' Foundation. They address health inequalities by focusing on a few complex health issues that disproportionately impact people living in cities – children's health and food, multiple long-term conditions, the health effects of air pollution, and children's mental health.

### London Borough of Lambeth

Lambeth is one of the most vibrant and diverse boroughs in London covering Brixton, Streatham, Clapham and Waterloo. [London Borough of Lambeth](#) provide services such as planning, social work, housing and schools to 303,000 residents and hundreds of businesses.

### **London Borough of Southwark**

Extending from the River Thames into south-east London, [London Borough of Southwark](#) encompasses some of the capital's cultural hotspots, vibrant communities and acclaimed green spaces. Southwark's central location provides excellent transport links making it a highly accessible area.

### **Steer**

[Steer](#) work across cities, infrastructure and transport to combine commercial, economic, technical and planning expertise.

### **Further Information**

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Image to accompany Press Release

