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About Lewisham Cyclists

Lewisham Cyclists (LC) are the local borough group of the London Cycling Campaign (LCC) with more than 3000 supporters of whom over 650 are fully paid-up members of LCC. We speak up on behalf of everyone who cycles or wants to cycle in the London Borough of Lewisham and its adjacent local parks; and we speak up for a greener, healthier, happier and better-connected capital.

Thames Clippers Consultation on New Cross River Ferry between Rotherhithe & Canary Wharf – December 2023

Ref: <https://www.thamesclippers.com/about-us/cross-river-ferry-consultation>

Abbreviated version submitted through Thames Clippers consultation portal

Lewisham Cyclists have for a long time campaigned for an additional cycle accessible crossing at this point in the river. In the absence of the mooted TfL walking and cycling bridge we are very supportive of these proposals for an electric ferry as a good interim solution.

We are pleased to see the much improved accessibility to the ferry and its increased capacity. We would also like the following considerations to be taken into account:

- The access ramps and ferry should have provision for adapted and cargo cycles (dimensions are provided in the London Cycle Design Standards).
- Charges for users are a particular barrier for cycle users, who are likely to travel a bit further if the charges are not affordable. Ideally the crossing would be subsidised by TfL and free of charge like other river crossings (Woolwich Ferry, Greenwich Foot Tunnel). If TfL subsidy is not forthcoming a price around the cost of a standard TfL bus fare could still generate reasonable levels of cyclist traffic. Given that the mooted tolls for the Silvertown Tunnel are in the range £2.50 to £4 for a car we see the proposed £3.95 fare for a cycle as being disproportionately high.
- Frequent service is also a requirement, at least every 10 minutes, as cycle users will take an alternative route if the wait is too long.
- Clear access and signage must be provided (the current ferry is all but hidden).
- Cycle access routes on both sides of the river should be enhanced.

We would very much welcome further discussions regarding this crossing or improvements to other river crossings across the Thames.