



4th June 2007

FASTRACK ROUTE A – THE JOURNEY BEGINS...

A new Fastrack service, connecting The Bridge Development and Crossways with Dartford Station and town centre, Greenhithe Station and Bluewater, is now in operation.

Sunday 3rd June saw the new service, Fastrack Route A, begin operation, bringing a wider rapid transport service to travellers in Dartford. Operated by Arriva, Fastrack Route A will run services seven days per week up to every six minutes from 6:00am until midnight. Passengers will be able to connect with Fastrack Route B at Bluewater, Greenhithe or Dartford for onward travel right across Kent Thameside with through fares available.

With many innovative and exciting 'firsts' for Fastrack, Route A has introduced a new off-bus ticketing system designed to speed vehicle boarding. Passengers travelling on Fastrack Route A *must* purchase a ticket for the journey before boarding the vehicle. Tickets can be bought from vending machines at Fastrack A Route stops.

The new Fastrack Route A currently operates through Junction 1a of the M25, from The Bridge development to Crossways. However, September this year will see the new route diverted over the A282 via a new Fastrack-only bridge spanning the road between the Dartford Tunnel and toll booths.

The new route has been funded by Prologis, developers of The Bridge with Dartford Borough Council. The Bridge is the first major project to start on site in the Thames Gateway, as well as the first development in the UK where the public transport infrastructure has been planned, built and made operational before the arrival of commercial or residential occupiers.

Maurice Dalton, Prologis explains, "We have planned The Bridge to be a sustainable community that does not rely on the car. The development will bring 7,500 new jobs and 1,500 new homes to Dartford, so it is vital that the Fastrack service is operational before the first houses are occupied."

David George, Project Manager at Fastrack comments, "The new Fastrack Route A service complements the existing and highly successful Fastrack Route B launched last year and will



encourage even more local residents to leave their cars at home and travel by Fastrack. And the off-bus ticketing system is a particularly exciting feature, something we plan to roll out right across Fastrack over the coming year. All in all, this is further great news for Fastrack and Kent Thameside.”

Ends

For any further information, please contact Claudia Robinson at FD Thamesis on 020 7269 9361 / Claudia.robinson@fdtamesis.com or the Fastrack Team on 01474 338800. For general information on *Fastrack* please visit www.go-fastrack.co.uk