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Crossrail review

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Government Quotes from 2007

Here is a selection of quotes about Crossrail from a range of public figures:

From Government:

Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP, Prime Minister:

"For decades the idea of Crossrail - a major new railway link connecting central London, the City and Canary Wharf to Heathrow and to commuter areas east and west of the capital - has been a long-held dream for business and Londoners alike."

"I am pleased to be able to confirm to you all today that we have now reached final agreement on the funding that is needed. Full details will be announced next week but I can say today that both the private and public sectors have made major financial commitments and that the project will now definitely proceed."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rt Hon Alistair Darling MP:

"Crossrail is key to the long term development of London and the UK and I welcome the fact that everyone has worked together to achieve this. We are able to afford this investment on the foundation of a strong economy."

Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London:

"Crossrail is not just a transport scheme – it is the key to the next 20 years of economic development of London. Crossrail will provide the transport underpinning for the greatest centres of London's business – the City, Canary Wharf and the West End – as well as linking these areas of high jobs growth to the areas of greatest deprivation in east London and opening up the areas of new housing development in the Thames Gateway."

"Crossrail, like all good ideas, is simple. It gives the financial centres of London, the City and Canary Wharf, a single transport platform, links this to Heathrow, provides massive new transport capacity in the West End, and opens up the connection to the areas of housing development in the Thames Gateway. It passes through most of the areas of highest job growth in London. The station at Whitechapel provides a junction to the East London Line – which passes through the areas of London's greatest deprivation."

Peter Hendy, Transport Commissioner:

"This is excellent news for London and the UK as a whole - Crossrail will play a vital role in ensuring that London continues to grow and prosper. Crossrail will provide a massive increase of 10% in London's public transport capacity when it opens in 2017."

Michael Snyder, Chairman, Policy and Resources Committee, City of London:

"The City Corporation has been pushing for Crossrail for nearly 20 years, and I personally have been working for over ten years to reach today's decision. I am delighted that the many hours of detailed discussion in recent days have finally helped to bring about this success and will deliver the new railway that London so desperately needs."

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Business Quotes

Here is a selection of quotes about Crossrail from a range of public figures:

From Business:

Stephen Hester, Chief Executive, British Land:

"Crossrail is important to the future of London: it will ensure the continued regeneration and development of the Capital – the key motor in the UK economy."

Mervyn Davies, Chairman, Standard Chartered and Chair of UK Business Council:

"I am delighted that the Government, the Mayor and the business community have all recognised that Crossrail is a priority if the competitiveness of the UK's financial services industry is to be maintained."

Baroness Jo Valentine, Chief Executive, London First:

"London First, on behalf of business and commuters, has pressed for Crossrail for over a decade. By giving this vital scheme the OK, Gordon Brown will be relieving rush hour misery for millions of Londoners and unlocking new growth. London and the UK need Crossrail to maintain attractiveness to overseas investors looking to locate their HQs."

Cornelius Medvei, London Senior Partner, Eversheds:

"Crossrail is key to London continuing as a global financial and cultural city with all the huge benefits that brings to the UK economy and London's quality of life. It also enables vital regeneration of London's deprived areas."

Bob Wigley, Chairman, EMEA, Merrill Lynch:

"We have always said that London having a modern transport infrastructure that enables clients and colleagues to cross London into the financial community efficiently is crucial to maintaining London's international competitiveness."

Colin Stanbridge, Chief Executive, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry:

"Crossrail has always been a firm priority for us because, as the engine of the UK economy, London's competitive edge must not be undermined by a failure to keep the capital moving. But this decision is not just a victory for London but for the UK transport system as a whole. What also has to be fully recognised is that without the substantial contributions from the City of London Corporation and the private sector, we would not have reached this momentous position today."

Miles Templeman, Director General, Institute of Directors:

"It is good news that this much-needed transport infrastructure project has finally been given the go-ahead. Good local, national and international transport links are an essential pre-requisite for a thriving economy, and it is crucial that further investment in vital transport projects can be delivered without the inordinate delays that have beset Crossrail."

Sources: [Campaign for Crossrail](#) website

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Trade Union Quotes

Here is a selection of quotes about Crossrail from a range of public figures:

From Trade Unions:

Brendan Barber, General-Secretary, TUC:

"This announcement is excellent news for the UK economy and jobs. The TUC recognises the integral role Crossrail can play in the economic development and regeneration in London. Crossrail will provide an essential communication and transport network for business and industry in the region and potentially provides business opportunities for manufacturing, construction and related sectors supporting jobs growth across the region."

Bob Crow, General Secretary, RMT:

"Crossrail makes sense from every angle. It will help ease overcrowding on other routes, get more people off the roads and onto public transport and give the capital a massive economic boost. But we need to learn the lessons from a decade of rail and Tube privatisation and ensure that Crossrail is a public project in every sense, publicly run and publicly accountable, and with rolling stock built in Britain to help rescue our skilled train-making industry."

"Businesses stand to benefit massively from Crossrail and it is only right that they pay their share towards its cost, but its benefit will be lost if it becomes a premium railway for use only by those who can afford high fares. A modern, high-capacity and affordable rail network is not a luxury, it is essential for the economy and the environment, and we hope the government will use the momentum to work quickly towards a new high-speed north-south link as well."

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Passenger Group Quotes

Here is a selection of quotes about Crossrail from a range of public figures:

From Passenger Groups:

Brian Cooke, Chairman, London TravelWatch:

"This is fantastic news for passengers in London, and we are delighted that the green light has – finally – been given. We have long-pressed for a commitment to Crossrail, as increased capacity and investment in the rail infrastructure was vital for the capital. Crossrail should be a crucial element in London's transport network, and will help keep London moving."

Anthony Smith, Chief Executive, Passenger Focus:

"We are delighted at this long awaited news. Crossrail will make an enormous difference to passengers' experience of train travel. Over the years, passenger numbers have increased but there has been little real opportunity to properly address the issues created by such demand."

"Crossrail will provide much needed additional capacity for commuters along the routes identified which should mean a much more comfortable and pleasant journey. It also avoids the need to change onto the Underground. This is very much a first step and we want to see the service extended in the future for example west beyond Maidenhead as far as Reading and beyond."

"The project will obviously be a major challenge. Passenger Focus will scrutinise its development closely to ensure that disruption to services is kept to a minimum and passengers are kept informed throughout"

Note – all quotations courtesy of Campaign for Crossrail.