



Picture: Stefano Gagnoni

Workmen celebrate as the tunnel extending the Docklands Light Railway under the River Thames to Woolwich Arsenal was completed on time.

The 540-tonne boring machine broke through the earth south of the Thames in July.

The £180million, 1.5 mile extension will link Woolwich south of the river with the Docklands Light Railway station at King George V, one stop away from London City Airport.

The £5million tunnel boring machine, nicknamed Carla, has created two tunnels, corresponding to the two DLR tracks. The first

Light rail breakthrough

was launched by the Mayor of London Ken Livingstone in April 2006, and completed in December 2006. The second tunnel was started in February.

The extension will provide a direct link from Woolwich to central London (Bank station) in under half an hour, London City Airport in five minutes, Canary Wharf in 19 minutes and Stratford in 20 minutes. In peak periods, trains could run every four minutes.

There will also be an interchange with mainline services on the North

Kent line. Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London, said: "The Docklands Light Railway is a fantastic success story for London with steadily rising passenger numbers and more and more areas being linked to improve access to new jobs and housing, helping to transform areas of East London.

"The extension to Woolwich will boost the local economy and completes another piece of the transport improvements the 2012 Games are already bringing to London."

Nicky Gavron, Deputy Mayor of

London, said: "This a major milestone in the Docklands Light Railway Woolwich Arsenal extension project, delivered on time and on budget."

Peter Hendy, Transport for London Commissioner, said: "The DLR carried 60 million people last year and this extension is another example of how this gem of a railway is growing."

The Woolwich Arsenal extension will open in 2009. Woolwich Arsenal station will include step-free access, and have two entrances – Greens End and Woolwich New Road.

More information: www.dlr.co.uk.