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CASE STUDY

Crossrail rail line/London, England

Massive Rail Project in London Steps Up with Products from BILCO

The exact opening date remains fluid, but a newly-constructed rail system in London will soon give riders relief from overcrowding and significantly reduce the time they spend in transit.

Crossrail will transform travel in the United Kingdom with more than 73 miles of an underground railway line cutting through the megalopolis. The line will officially be branded the Elizabeth line, and will run up to 24 trains per hour in each direction. Construction started in 2009 on the \$21.6 billion project, which is expected to carry 200 million passengers per year when it opens. Originally projected to open in 2018, latest reports indicate the line will become partially operational in late 2021 and will begin operating at full capacity in 2023.

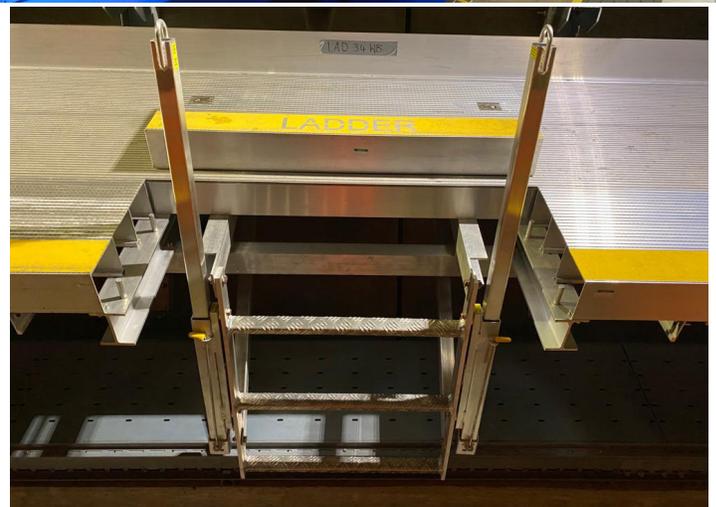
The rail line will include service to 41 stations, including 10 new ones. New electric trains that can reach 90 mph and carry more than 1,500 passengers will help ease congestions on London trains. Train overcrowding is a source of extreme frustration in the United Kingdom, exacerbated by a system in which reservations are not required and ridership has increased. The London Underground rapid transit system carries more than three million passengers every day, amounting to more than one billion riders per year.

The massive infrastructure project includes more than 350 LadderUp® Safety Posts from BILCO. The posts provide easier, safer access to maintenance walkways. The posts are manufactured with mill finish aluminum construction and weigh slightly more than 15 pounds. They will help provide engineers with safe access to walkways when conducting essential maintenance.

The LadderUp® Safety Posts were specified by Crossrail's systemwide contractor, Alstom TSO Costain Joint Venture (ATC Systemwide). The specification process, managed by Construction & Rail Contractors McNealy Brown, focused on the requirement for durable yet functional access solutions that would consistently provide a safe and direct step-through onto the walkway, without impacting surrounding electrical services.

The unique and high-quality construction of the LadderUp® Safety Post fulfilled each requirement of the project specification. This includes features such as the innovative telescopic post, which mounts permanently to any fixed ladder to provide a secure

Photo Courtesy of Crossrail



handhold that enables the user to enter or exit the opening in an upright and balanced position.

"When we first began researching potential access solutions for the Crossrail project's central section, it became clear quite quickly that the BILCO UK LadderUp® Safety Post was the only product available on the UK market that would fulfill our extensive list of requirements," said Clive Burfoot, Contract Manager at McNealy Brown.

The lightweight construction of the safety posts ensures a swift and trouble-free installation process, according to Vimeshen Ravindran, Senior Mechanical Engineer at ATC Systemwide. "The LadderUp® Safety Posts will play an essential role in ensuring the central section of the Elizabeth line continues to run at the highest standard, so it was crucial we specified access solutions that would facilitate the continued maintenance of the line, safely and efficiently."

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