

Case study

Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital Trust: Bikes for Business pathology deliveries

Aim

Freight and servicing vehicles in London account for about one fifth of road traffic and one third of nitrogen dioxide air pollution. In south London, Team London Bridge are a Business Improvement District (BID) who developed an innovative cycling strategy including Bikes for Business, an initiative to increase the number of business-related deliveries done by bicycle and e-cargo bike in the London Bridge area. They aim to embrace clean forms of transport and traffic reduction to create a quieter, safer, less polluted, more welcoming, and more inclusive business district. They won funding from Transport for London's 'Healthy Streets Fund for Business' to develop their scheme. An early adopter of the scheme was Guy's



and St Thomas' Hospital Trust (GSTT), which is located in the London Bridge area, next to some of the most polluted streets in London, and is looking at its own logistics to reduce congestion and pollution around the hospital.

GSTT knew that between their two hospital sites at London Bridge (Guy's) and Waterloo (St Thomas'), pathology deliveries of blood samples and other items for testing were taking place throughout the day, every day and mainly by motorbike. They decided to make the switch to cargo bike for all these journeys, reducing the negative impact of the journeys.

Delivery

GSTT worked with their existing pathology services provider, Viapath, and Viapath's logistics partner, Citysprint, to safely and securely switch pathology sample deliveries to a growing fleet of cargo bikes. The scheme began as a 6-month trial in April 2019, and has now been rolled out as a permanent solution.

Bikes make 9 hourly runs per day, meaning approximately 270 runs per month are switched to a clean and sustainable mode of transport. Each month the riders cycle over 1000 miles.

As one rider said "Driving in London is a nightmare. I think cycling is the most convenient method. I love cycling anyway, the freedom of it and the exercise".



Impact

Pathology deliveries have been sustained as normal throughout the switch to cargo bikes. The conversion to bikes has prevented roughly 2 tonnes of carbon being released into the atmosphere over the trial period alone. The cost per delivery is marginally higher with a cargo bike than a motorbike. However, because the project brings substantial benefits, Viapath has agreed to absorb the cost by making other efficiencies, and there is an expectation the cost will fall as the adoption of cargo bikes is scaled up for other collection routes.

The Future

GSTT and Viapath are committed to further reduce their respective carbon

footprints by switching deliveries from existing transportation methods and expanding the logistics network in which cargo bikes can become the vehicle of choice

For info from Team London Bridge on how you can switch to deliveries by cargo bike, there is more information on the website <https://www.teamlondonbridge.co.uk/bikesforbusiness> including a directory with over a hundred cargo-bike couriers and services across London

London NHS Trusts interested in connecting to their local Business Improvement District can contact the TfL Healthy Streets for Business team via HealthyStreetsFund@tfl.gov.uk

Further case studies can be found here:

<https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/about-tfl/corporate-and-social-responsibility/transport-and-health>