

# East West Rail and the Development Consent Order Process – updated May 2023

East West Rail will move through a number of development stages and approvals before we start the next phase of improvement works on the railway between Oxford and Bedford and construct the new railway between Bedford and Cambridge. At every step we seek to involve people so we can deliver the right connections for you and your community.

## → Stage 01

### Choosing the Preferred Route Option (Bedford to Cambridge only)

- Public consultation
- Analysis and design
- Preferred Route Option chosen

We held a non-statutory public consultation, talking with people living and working across the route corridor, elected representatives and many other organisations and interest groups. Using their comments alongside environmental, economic and technical studies we chose a Preferred Route Option.

✓ Complete

## → Stage 02

### Developing Route Alignment Options and identifying extra infrastructure between Oxford and Cambridge

- Design and test possible route alignments
- Identify potential additional infrastructure needed to run services between Oxford and Cambridge
- Environmental and land surveys
- Second non-statutory public consultation

In 2021 we held a second non-statutory public consultation on the options we'd developed for the Preferred Route Alignment. This looked at possible station locations, land surveys, connections with other local transport networks and what additional infrastructure may be required between Oxford to Bicester, Bletchley and Bedford to allow future EWR trains to run all the way through to Cambridge.

We received over 9,000 responses on the proposals, each of these has been carefully considered and alongside environmental and technical studies has helped us to choose a Preferred Route Alignment.

✓ Complete

## → Stage 03

### Choosing a Preferred Route Alignment and additional infrastructure

- Analysis and design
- Options for additional infrastructure between Oxford to Bicester, Bletchley and Bedford chosen
- Public discussions

We now have a Preferred Route Alignment between Bedford and Cambridge, and the options for additional infrastructure between Oxford to Bicester, Bletchley and Bedford.

The choice of alignment has been based on feedback from the two previous consultations and continuing environmental, economic and technical studies.

Ongoing engagement with our stakeholders and the local community will help us to refine the design before inviting the public to submit further feedback in the statutory consultation.

✓ Complete

## → Stage 04

### Statutory Public Consultation

- Gather feedback on the Preferred Route Alignment between Bedford and Cambridge
- Present the environmental, economic and technical studies
- Present the proposed design of the railway

We expect the statutory consultation will take place in the first half of 2024.

In this stage we'll formally share with the public our Preferred Route and any associated infrastructure such as stations and level crossings alongside other parts of the Project, including the proposed design.

The information from this consultation will be used to finalise our proposals for the railway. We will also seek the next stage of funding and approval from government.

→ In progress

## → Stage 05

### Securing Development Consent

- EWR Co submit application
- Planning Inspectorate holds an Examination
- Secretary of State for Transport makes a Decision

We submit the proposals to the Secretary of State as part of an application for a "Development Consent Order". This proposal will include the findings from the statutory consultation. The Planning Inspectorate will carry out a public examination of our application which normally lasts up to six months. This includes considering the design of the Project, its impact on the environment, any protected habitats and local communities.

People will be able to comment on the application.

The Planning Inspectorate will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State on whether our proposals should go ahead. A final decision is usually given within six months of the examination closing.

→

## → Stage 06

### Construction begins

- Construction begins

Once we've complied with any initial conditions or requirements included in the Development Consent Order, the government will consider the full business case for the Project to make the final decision to proceed. Following further conversations with the public and stakeholders, we can start to construct your new railway.

→