eastwestrail.co.uk
Non-statutory public consultation

31 March – 9 June 2021
What we’ll cover today

Introduction to the consultation
What we’re consulting on
How to get involved
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What we are consulting on

This 10-week consultation is an opportunity for you to share your thoughts on emerging proposals for East West Rail and your views on the broader scheme.

The consultation document covers the following key sections:

- Customer experience and railway operations
- Proposed infrastructure development
  - Oxford to Bicester
  - Bletchley and the Marston Vale Line
  - Bedford
  - Clapham Green to The Eversdens
  - Harlton to Hauxton
  - The Shelfords to Cambridge station
Shaping customer experience and railway operations

This part of our consultation focuses on what future customers want from their railway experience.

We want to hear your views – from individuals and organisations – on the customer experience you would like from East West Rail.
What we’re consulting on

Customer experience and railway operations

As part of developing the customer experience, we are keeping our minds completely open about what we might be able to offer.

We are looking for feedback on what our customers think would make positive differences to their customer travel experience.
Bedford
Improvements to the existing railway and a new section of railway

- Bedford station is already an important transport hub in the region

- The introduction of East West Rail services means the station and supporting infrastructure need a range of improvements to make sure sufficient capacity is available

- In restoring a vital rail connection between Oxford, Bedford and Cambridge that was lost to local people in the last century, these improvements can support local stakeholders’ future aspirations for more jobs, prosperity and growth in this lively, diverse town.

More information can be found in Section C of the consultation document
Bedford
Our developing plans

- **Bedford St Johns station**: a new station on a different section of track into Bedford, either closer to the hospital or to the south west of the existing station, close to the Ampthill Road – Elstow Road Pedestrian Link bridge.

- **Bedford station**: building new track to Bromham Road Bridge. The existing station building is proposed to be demolished and a new station building would be built.

- **North Bedford**: building new track in between Bromham Road Bridge and Clapham Green, creating the new connection to Cambridge.
Bedford station area

- Bedford station is simply not able to accommodate the new services which EWR would bring to the town.

- To connect the town with both Oxford and Cambridge, we would run trains through the station, leading to far more trains and passengers using the station.

- To optimise the proposed journey times we would also need to ensure trains can operate at faster speeds in the Bedford area.
Bedford station area

The current station and infrastructure can’t support all of this activity:

- There is only one track from the Bletchley direction into the bay platform
- There is a bend on the track which restricts the speed to 15mph
- The track terminates at platform 1A so trains couldn’t use it to go through to Cambridge
- Available platforms couldn’t accommodate EWR services as well as existing services.
Bedford station area

To deliver the benefits, we would have to relocate the station buildings and make a number of changes to the infrastructure around the station, including:

- The existing railway as it approaches Bedford station from Bedford St Johns
- The Thameslink sidings
- Bedford station Platform 1A and other platforms
- Ford End Road bridge, and road access to Bedford station
- The location of the station building and access to it
North Bedford

- To enable EWR services to run through Bedford and connect people with Cambridge, some significant infrastructure improvements would be required.
- The existing Midland Main Line track north of Bedford station has seen substantial growth and is already well used with both freight and passenger trains.
- Our emerging preferred option is to build two new tracks to the east side of the existing railway through Bromham Road Bridge and following the existing railway as far as the UK Power Networks Substation at Fairhill.

We are considering:
- Building two new tracks to the east of the existing railway
- Introducing a range of infrastructure interventions to support this, as shown on this map.
Information for landowners

To construct and operate the new East West Rail line, some of the proposals put forward for consultation will affect people’s homes, businesses and farms.

• In developing our proposals, we aim to minimise the negative impact these may have on people’s land and property and mitigate any impacts we cannot avoid.

• While we don’t yet know for certain which land or property will be needed, we know that publishing our plans could potentially affect people needing to sell their home, agricultural holding or small business.

• We are consulting on a discretionary purchase scheme, the Need to Sell Scheme, that, if introduced, would support owner occupiers once the announcement of the preferred route alignment for the railway has been made.

• We have a dedicated team in place who are focused on how the proposals will affect people’s homes, businesses and farms. More information on how to contact them is available on our website at eastwestrail.co.uk.
Public consultation

Working with you

Two meeting sessions during consultation:

• **Today** – A session to run you through all the elements we will be consulting on that are relevant to you

• **May** – A more discursive session – once you’ve had a chance to read through the documents designed to raise any questions you might have
How you can get involved

There are lots of different ways to get involved in the consultation, including:

**Virtual consultation rooms** – open from 12 April 2021 until 9 June 2021 which provide more information on each section of the consultation, including a full list of documents and maps available via the central table.

**Online public events** – we are holding twelve online events for communities right the way from Oxford to Cambridge. There will be two lots of six events covering geographical areas along the route.

**Live chat events open to the public** – a series of ten, two-hour live chat sessions held via the virtual consultation rooms, where participants will be able to discuss key topics directly with members of the project team.

**Dedicated phone line** – the EWR Co telephone line will be available throughout the consultation period to enable those not wanting or able to engage online or in writing to speak to members of the Project team. The telephone number is **0330 134 0067**
Questions & Answers
How to respond to this consultation

We’re keen to understand what you think about the emerging proposals for the Project, and your views on the broader scheme.

Feedback forms can be submitted online by emailing us at consultation@eastwestrail.co.uk or sent by post to Freepost EAST WEST RAIL.

For further information, or to request a paper copy of the form to be sent to you, speak to the team by emailing us at contact@eastwestrail.co.uk or by calling us on 0330 134 0067.
What next?
Stay in touch

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