East West Railway Company

13 April 2021
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
Next steps
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.
The stations and railway lines between Oxford and Bicester do not have the capacity to run the four trains per hour service that is planned for East West Rail.

The proposed changes would provide people living, working and visiting the area around Oxford and Bicester with fast and reliable train services to Bletchley, Cambridge and stations in between - as well as better connectivity to the wider rail network.

More information is provided in Section A of the consultation document
What are our developing plans?

- Improvements at Oxford, Oxford Parkway and Bicester Village stations to accommodate more trains and more customers
- Proposals for one or more additional platforms at Oxford station
- Improvements to the track in the Oxford area to increase capacity for EWR trains to approach Oxford
- Alternative ways for vehicles and pedestrians to cross the railway at London Road in Bicester to improve safety, to enable a faster, more reliable train service, and to reduce traffic disruption.
We need to make improvements to Oxford station and some of the track to the north of the station to accommodate new East West Rail services.

This work is needed to ensure passengers can enjoy regular, reliable and punctual train services.
Our proposals

• Provide additional platforms

• New infrastructure south of Oxford station to provide improved ‘turn back’ facilities outside of the station, freeing up platform space

• Station specific improvements to accommodate the increase in passengers generated by East West Rail

• Additional tracks between Oxford North Junction and the bay platforms of Oxford station

• Additional track between Oxford North Junction and the Jericho line.
Oxford Parkway station

- Passenger numbers using the station have been higher than forecast
- The existing car park was often full to capacity within two years of the station opening
- We are assessing the need for upgrades at Oxford Parkway station to increase capacity and improve the customer experience.
Potential improvements to the station could include:

- Options to expand the parking facilities at the station
- Options to encourage access to the station via sustainable modes, such as walking, cycling and access to the Park and Ride facility
- Improvements to the local highway networks
- Station upgrades to improve the customer experience.
We are considering upgrades Bicester Village station may require to increase capacity and improve the customer experience. This includes:

- Options to expand parking facilities at the station
- Options to encourage access to the station via sustainable modes, such as walking and cycling
- Improvements to the local highway networks
- Station upgrades to improve the customer experience.
London Road, Bicester

• East West Rail would increase train services for people in Bicester providing more connections to more destinations

• The frequency of trains passing through the level crossing at London Road near Bicester Village station would increase

• The existing level crossing could be closed for up to 50 minutes in every hour

• We are investigating a number of options to improve access across the railway.
Our potential solutions

• **Concept 1**: accessible bridge for non-motorised users

• **Concept 2**: road underpass at London Road

• **Concept 3**: road bridge at London Road

• **Concept 4**: road underpass alongside London Road

• **Concept 5**: road bridge alongside London Road

• **Concept 6**: alternative road crossing locations.

We are considering 6 potential solutions:

- Concept 1: accessible bridge for non-motorised users
- Concept 2: road underpass at London Road
- Concept 3: road bridge at London Road
- Concept 4: road underpass alongside London Road
- Concept 5: road bridge alongside London Road
- Concept 6: alternative road crossing locations
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?