Bedford to Cambridge

The route to construction

The project will move through a number of development stages and approvals before we start constructing your new railway. At every step, we hope you and your community will get involved and talk to us so we can deliver the right connections for you.

We are always looking for ways to accelerate your new railway. The dates below are included as a guide. As the team progress with designing and planning the railway we'll know more about how long the different stages will take. We promise to be realistic about the timings and will share new dates with you if the programme changes.



Stage 01

Choosing the Preferred **Route Option**

- 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.

Stage 02

Developing Route Alignment Options

- Design and test possible route alignments
- Survey land
- Second non-statutory public consultation

We are beginning to develop options for the Preferred Route Alignment. The team will also consider station sites, start to survey land, and study connections with local transport networks. Once options for the Preferred Route Alignment are sufficiently advanced, we'll present them as part of a second round of non-statutory consultation so that you can have your say.

Stage 03

Choosing a **Preferred Route Alignment**

- Analysis and design
- Preferred Route Alignment chosen
- Statutory public consultation

We will choose a Preferred Route Alignment using feedback from two previous consultations and continuing environmental, economic and technical studies. It will be presented to the public alongside other parts of the project, including the proposed design, in a statutory consultation. 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.

Stage 04

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". On his behalf, the Planning Inspectorate will carry out a public examination of our application which normally lasts up to six months. People will be able to comment on the application. The Inspectorate goes through a strict process of examination and hearings, before making 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 05

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. can start to construct your new railway.