

EWR Co and the EWR Project



East West Railway Company (EWR Co) is responsible for delivering the East West Rail Project. Our organisation was created to develop a railway with customers and communities at its core. The Oxford-Cambridge Arc is a great place to live and work, but it needs better transport choices. We are passionate about developing a railway which unlocks the Arc's full potential and best serves people between Oxford, Milton Keynes, Bedford and Cambridge.

Making meaningful connections

We are a government owned company, set up by the Secretary of State for Transport in 2018, with the following role in relation to proposals for a railway between Oxford and Cambridge:

- To oversee and develop the work already underway between Oxford, Bedford and Milton Keynes and improve the existing rail lines, including additional upgrades to the Marston Vale Line
- To plan a rail link between Bedford and Cambridge and to complete the proposed line.

We have a mission to innovate and to challenge the status quo in the rail and construction industries, leading to more efficient and cost-effective project delivery, and a better experience for passengers. Our distinctive outlook and commitment to doing the right thing for our customers and local communities runs through everything we do and every decision we make.

What is the Project designed to achieve?

The strategic objectives set by the Department for Transport are as follows:

- Improve east-west public transport connectivity by providing rail links between key urban areas (current and anticipated) in the Oxford-Cambridge Arc
- Stimulate economic growth, housing and employment through the provision of new, reliable and attractive inter-urban passenger train services in the Oxford-Cambridge Arc
- Meet initial forecast passenger demand
- Consider and plan for future passenger demand, making provision where it is affordable
- Contribute to improved journey times and inter-regional passenger connectivity by connecting with north-south routes and routes beyond Oxford and Cambridge

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- Maintain current capacity for rail freight and make appropriate provision for anticipated future growth
- Provide a sustainable and value for money transport solution to support economic growth in the area.

Creating opportunities

East West Rail will create opportunities for people across the area by:

- Making it cheaper and quicker to get around
- Connecting people to friends, families, jobs and homes
- Providing better transport links across the area, improving the quality of life, and attracting businesses and investment.

How are we delivering the Project?

Trains are already running between Oxford and Bicester. Our additional services would be introduced in three Connection Stages (CS). We expect the services to be as follows, in each direction:

- CS1: two passenger trains per hour between Oxford and Milton Keynes
- CS2: an additional two passenger trains per hour between Oxford and Bedford
- CS3: extension of the two passenger trains per hour between Oxford and Bedford to Cambridge and an additional two passenger trains per hour between Bletchley and Cambridge.

Construction of improvements to the Marston Vale Line between Bletchley to Bedford, and the new railway between Bedford to Cambridge routes is expected to begin in 2025, with the ambition of trains running the full length of the line between Oxford and Cambridge by the end of the decade.

Visit our website for more information: www.eastwestrail.co.uk

Get in touch

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