



Project update

## Werrington Junction Rail Improvement Scheme

September 2015



Dear Neighbour,

### Re: Werrington Rail Improvement Scheme – Project Update – September 2015

In summer 2014 we held a number of public consultation events to discuss the potential options for removing a bottleneck on the rail network at Werrington Junction where the East Coast Mainline (ECML) meets the Great North Great Eastern (GNGE) railway line.

The high level options presented were for either a new ‘flyover’ or ‘dive-under’ solution, and our early ideas on possible alignments were presented at that time.

#### The improvements at Werrington Junction would help deliver the following benefits:

- Increased capacity on the ECML between London and the north
- Improved reliability for services on the ECML
- Improved journey times along the ECML route
- Reduced risk of delays to both passenger and freight services

Around 400 people from the local community attended the consultation events and for the past 12 months we have been reviewing the options in greater detail taking into account the feedback received from the community and key stakeholders, with a view to identifying a preferred option to take forward.

Around two thirds of the 140 feedback forms we received indicated a strong preference for the dive-under option and I am pleased to inform you that we will now be taking this option forward with a view to applying for consent from the Secretary of State for Transport.



*The indicative dive under alignment as presented at the public consultation in 2014*

The dive-under option still presents a number of design and construction challenges for us, and as a consequence, we are currently in the process of bringing on board a specialist contractor who will assist us with the ongoing development, design, and subsequently construction of the new track should it gain the necessary consent

Timescales for the application for consent, through a Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO), and construction have altered from those we highlighted in our events last year and are now as follows:

- Specialist contractor appointed: Summer 2016
- Community consultation: Autumn 2016
- Submit application for consent (TWAO) to carry out the work: Winter 2016
- Work starts (subject to getting consent): Summer 2018
- Completion of work: Autumn 2020

We are working to develop a fixed route alignment for the dive-under, and have contacted those land and property owners that may be directly impacted by our proposals where land or property may be required. If you would like to come along and discuss the proposals with members of the project team we will be available at the **Hodgson Community Centre on Hodgson Avenue, Werrington, PE4 5EG at the following times:**

- Friday 2nd October 3pm – 7pm
- Saturday 3rd October 2.30pm – 6pm

We are still in the process of developing our plans, and at this point we won't have more detailed information at these events, but you will be able to speak to the members of our team ahead of public consultation next year. You can view the information we presented in June 2014 on our website at [www.networkrail.co.uk/werrington](http://www.networkrail.co.uk/werrington)

We hope to be back in the community during autumn 2016 to carry out a further round of formal consultation on our plans for the dive-under where further detail on alignment and possible impacts of the development should be available. In the meantime you can also email [consultation-werrington@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:consultation-werrington@networkrail.co.uk) or call our national helpline **03457 11 41 41**.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your engagement with the project so far, and I look forward to us continuing our work with the local community and its representatives over the coming months. I hope that the contents of this letter is largely positive news, but should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,



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