

Manningtree Rail Users Association

Opportunity to comment on Network Rail's strategic business plan for control period 5

The Manningtree Rail Users Association (MRUA), as a founder member of the Essex Rail Users Federation, would like to confirm our support of the proposals being submitted with regards improvements to the rail infrastructure on the Great Eastern Mainline (GEML), namely:

- Construction of two extra tracks between Beaulieu Park (north of Chelmsford) and Hatfield Peverel / Witham should be investigated and if found viable, the design and scheme development and construction funded within CP5 (completion by 2019). This would relieve congestion on the Great Eastern main line by allowing faster trains to pass slower ones, providing greater flexibility in the service.
- To investigate the necessary infrastructure changes required thereby enabling the increase in line speeds wherever possible to 110mph.

The MRUA fully supports and endorses the proposals put forward in the East Anglian Rail Prospectus.

The GEML has been the poor relation in recent years with little investment carried out. Journey times have not improved and indeed some have got longer and the nature of the infrastructure means that any minor incident can lead to considerable delays with little extra capacity available. Any steps that can be taken to improve journey times and provide resilience during times of disruption should be embraced as a matter of some urgency.

Neil Skinner

Chairman

Manningtree Rail Users Association

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