

London Midland
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Dear consultee

Project 110 – SLC Change Consultation

Background

At the end of March 2012, the Moderation of Competition clause in the West Coast Trains track access agreement comes to an end. This allows London Midland to apply for the rights to enhance the timetable for our passengers on the West Coast route.

We intend to apply for rights to operate more and faster services on the 'Trent Valley' route, and additional peak services between Northampton, Milton Keynes and London. (This is in addition to the Sunday and weekday evening services for which we have already been granted rights.)

This consultation is to seek your views on the proposal, specifically around changes to the Service Level Commitment (SLC).

Proposal

The proposal requires us to increase the maximum speed of our Class 350/1 'Desiro' trains from 100 to 110mph.

This would then allow us to improve the timetable by:

- operating more trains into and out of London Euston, with minimal impact on other train services,
- running most Trent Valley services direct between Milton Keynes and Rugby rather than via Northampton, and

- creating more train paths on the fast lines in the peak periods without the need for any infrastructure changes or new designs of rolling stock. The peak capacity is subject to agreement on funding with the Department for Transport – these discussions are expected to be concluded by the end of this calendar year.

The benefits include:

- faster journeys between the Trent Valley/Rugby and Milton Keynes/London (journey times reduced by up to 39 minutes),
- more peak trains to and from London (two more fast line paths per peak hour),
- the ability to provide significantly more seats in the peak periods using the additional line capacity made available.

The consequences of the proposal include:

- loss of most direct services between Watford Junction or Northampton and the Trent Valley, which will generally increase the time taken for these journeys (journeys will still be possible by changing train, e.g. at Rugby in the case of Northampton)

Consultation

To enable our plans we need to make some changes to our Service Level Commitment (SLC). In summary these changes are:

- Route G: removal of Northampton and Watford calls from Trent Valley services
- Route Q: incorporation of two semi-fast trains per hour between Northampton and London including one which calls at Watford Junction (as at present) despite the Trent Valley service being diverted away from Northampton. Thus the level of service between Northampton and intermediate stations to London does not change.

There is also some other proposed transfer of specified services between Routes which does not affect the level of service offered.

As a consultee we are seeking your views on the SLC change. To help you we enclose a document describing the proposal in more detail, including:

- Relevant parts of the SLC marked up to show proposed changes
- Sample timetable to show the proposed service pattern

Please let me have your response by 15th December 2011. Your response should be sent to:

Nicola Moss
Head of Franchise Management
London Midland
102 New Street
Birmingham
B2 4HQ

Or by email to: nicola.moss@londonmidland.com

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Moss'. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'N' and 'M'.

Nicola Moss

Head of Franchise Management