

## **Railfuture TV Branch: Response to Round 3 of EWR Western Section stage 2 Consultation**

Railfuture Thames Valley branch continues to support the East West Rail reinstatement project and recognises the extensive work that has gone into the project plans. We welcome progress being made on this important East-West Rail scheme that is also a national priority for our organisation.

We endorse the creation of a company to carry the project forward quickly and seek to work with Rob Brighthouse and his team.

We challenge the assumptions that this line is being provided for local traffic only and seek to secure that provision for future freight and inter-regional services is built in from the start. We endorse the creation of a separate company to carry the project forward quickly and seek to work with Rob Brighthouse and his team.

In the long run, it would be cheaper to electrify the route during its construction, but accept that, if this is not deliverable at this stage, passive provision for future electrification should be made in its design.

Operational line capacity and speed should be dictated by the needs of a mixed traffic railway and not by an arbitrary upper speed limit.