

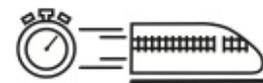
West Sussex Connectivity CMSP

June 2019

What have we been working on?

Following on from our initial meeting at the end of January, we've been looking in detail at the line, its infrastructure, the current levels of service provided and existing/ potential future drivers of demand. Supporting this, our economic specialists have carried out their market study. This study contains detailed analysis looking at the main population and employment areas, current and projected train crowding data as well as where passengers on the line are travelling to.

This work will help inform the options we will produce at the end of the study which will be published for consultation. A presentation is attached to the newsletter which outlines the findings from the study. Please do get in contact with us if you have any specific questions regarding the Market study.



Introduction

This is the first in a series of regular newsletter updates to keep our stakeholders informed of the latest work on our study looking at rail services in West Sussex, covering the line between Brighton and Southampton Central, as well as the Arun Valley Line to Three Bridges and the seaside branches to Littlehampton and Bognor Regis. The study is looking at the long-term prospects and opportunities for these lines, recognising the key role they can play in supporting future economic growth and recognising the significant housing growth planned for the area.

What is a CMSP?

A key part of Network Rail's remit from government is to plan for the future capacity of the rail network, looking up to 30 years into the future. This was done initially through Route Utilisation Strategies – such as the London and South East RUS and then Route Studies, looking at sizeable geographic areas of our network on a rolling basis over each of our five year funding periods and assessing potential enhancements to the network.

We have moved away from this to a more flexible 'modular' approach, called continuous modular strategic planning. The studies carried out under this programme will be looking at more specific, defined issues than the broader remits of the route studies, allowing us to look in more detail at a particular area or aspect of the network.

What's coming up ...

We know from previous discussions there are stakeholder aspirations for faster journey times between Brighton and Chichester and Havant, but equally that passengers value the connectivity the line currently provides through 'short hop' journeys. Over the next couple of months, we will be investigating potential opportunities and solutions which can lead to improvements which will reflect our stakeholders' objectives.

We are currently in discussions with Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) to review and understand the current timetable to enable us to identify if any amendments can be made which can enhance the service. We are also investigating whether there is the potential for infrastructure led proposals which could also lead to improvements. The work we are carrying out will look at how we can balance these two objectives and identify options for improvements, especially relating to journey time.

We want to hear from you...

We will keep you updated as this work progresses and will of course share these ideas as they begin to emerge. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to get in touch if there is anything you'd like to raise with us.



Observed during our field work, Metrobus in Crawley have started displaying live train times on a number of their buses.

