

National Express East Anglia

Proposal to deliver increased capacity

Timetable Consultation for West Anglia and Stansted Express services

In July 2007 the Government published a White Paper; Delivering a Sustainable Railway, in which it set out its plans for the rail network over the next 30 years. National Express (NX), as a leading transport provider in the UK, warmly welcomed the White Paper and is committed to playing its part in the delivery of the plans set out in the High Level Output Specification (HLOS) that are such an integral part of it.

In April 2009 National Express East Anglia (NXEA) became the first train operating company (TOC) to reach an agreement with the Department for Transport on the introduction of the additional capacity linked to the HLOS plans. The agreement will enable the delivery of major improvements for passengers with the provision of 188 extra carriages (a 17% increase in the size of our train fleet).

The purpose of this document is to outline the proposed improvements we plan to deliver with the additional capacity and consult on one option around the deployment of the new trains. During April and May we undertook an initial informal consultation with key local authorities, the passenger watchdogs and the regional development agency, so their comments have informed the proposals on which we are now formally consulting.

This consultation paper describes the headline improvements for the West Anglia and Stansted Express which will be delivered following the arrival of the extra vehicles and initiates a consultation process which **seeks your views** on the additional enhancements we aim to deliver following the arrival of 120 new vehicles. In most cases the changes are achieved simply by adding extra carriages to existing scheduled services. However, there is an option to try and deploy some new trains on a selected number of Cambridge – London services, rather than solely on the Stansted Express services. These improvements will commence from the May 2011 timetable and be fully implemented in the December 2011 timetable.

Headline West Anglia and Stansted Express improvements

With the introduction of new rolling stock we will:-

- Provide additional train service capacity into London Liverpool Street on a weekday morning capable of accommodating an additional 16000 (11000 seats and 5000 standing) passengers from the West Anglia and Great Eastern routes in the three hour peak and an additional 5,000 passengers in the high peak by December 31 2011;
- introduce 120 new electric vehicles to be deployed primarily on the Stansted Express route, but also on some Cambridge – London services;
- cascade the majority of the displaced Class 317 vehicles, currently deployed on Stansted Express services, onto other West Anglia service;
- extend all Stansted Express services to 12 carriages (from 8 now)
- extend a number of peak London Liverpool Street to Cambridge services to 12 carriages (from 8 now)
- extend a number of other peak West Anglia services to 8 carriages (from 4 now) on the lines to Enfield, Chingford, Hertford and Bishop's Stortford

We have worked in an open and collaborative way with the DfT for many months during the formulation of our proposals. We have researched the need for additional capacity and researched customers and stakeholders needs and aspirations. We have also worked closely with Network Rail (NR) to ensure our proposals are deliverable and consistent with NR's Strategic Business Plan.

These plans present a rare and major opportunity to make substantial improvements to train services and passengers' journeys across the NXEA network. They do not involve any changes to the timetable, but rather the extension of 29 existing train services (although a number of stations on the West Anglia route will have platforms lengthened to accommodate 12-carriage trains – a project which will require some weekend engineering work).

We are seeking your views on the key question around deployment of the new rolling stock. In reality the vast majority of the proposals simply involve adding extra carriages to existing train services and so are straight-forward improvements. However, the following issue is one on which a degree of variation is possible.

Issue on which your views would be welcomed

The specific point on which we are seeking your views as part of the formal consultation process is as follows :

1. Our proposal to try and schedule a small number of new trains on peak period Cambridge – London services, as well as on Stansted Express services. We also propose trying to schedule some of the new trains on some off peak and weekend Cambridge – London services. It should be noted that as demand grows on the Stansted Express, allocating any more new trains to the Cambridge line services would lead to some Stansted Express trains being operated with the existing Class 317 trains.

The response to our informal consultation was supportive of the above proposal. Issues such as luggage space on the new trains were also raised. These comments and those we receive from this formal process will influence the implement our plans and deploy the new trains.

We believe that our proposals maximise the benefits of the additional rolling stock, as well as generating the greatest economic, environmental and social inclusion benefits by making rail more convenient and competitive on more routes by enhancing capacity or, in some cases, frequency.

We welcome your comments on these proposals as we plan for the introduction of the extra capacity on our services. The overwhelming priorities are initiatives which deliver more capacity and are practical, achievable and would benefit the majority of rail travellers. In that context it should also be emphasised that the requirement of the Department for Transport from this process is additional capacity, so our plans must be compliant with that obligation.

Details of where to provide your feedback can be found on the next page.

Comments on NXEA West Anglia and Stansted Express plans

Please send your comments to

West Anglia & Stansted Express timetable consultation
National Express East Anglia
Oliver's Yard
55 City Road
London
EC1Y 1HQ

Or email them to nxeattconsultation@nationalexpress.com

The consultation period lasts for 12 weeks, so please submit your comments by **Friday 11 September 2009 or earlier if possible.**