

# Further public consultation on proposed national railway closures connected to Thameslink 2000

**Members of the public are invited to submit their views on the proposals to withdraw certain passenger services, close parts of the rail network and close parts of stations as part of the Thameslink 2000 project, namely:**

1. Withdrawal of all national railway passenger services between Farringdon and Moorgate.
2. Closure of the national railway network between Farringdon and Moorgate.
3. Closure of parts of the national railway network adjacent to platforms 1, 2 and 3 at London Blackfriars Station.
4. Closure of parts of the national railway network adjacent to platforms 8, 9 and 10 at London Bridge Station.
5. Withdrawal of all national railway passenger services to/from King's Cross Thameslink Station in Pentonville Road, London NW1.
6. Closure of King's Cross Thameslink Station in Pentonville Road, London NW1.

*Please note that none of the proposed closures involve London Underground services or networks including those between Farringdon and Moorgate. The proposed closure of King's Cross Thameslink Station does not preclude the station entrance in Pentonville Road remaining open to provide access to the London Underground.*

## **Introduction**

Thameslink 2000 is a proposed major railway investment project that aims to provide the basis for a significant expansion of capacity on services using the Thameslink route across London. If the project is approved (it is currently before a public inquiry in relation to certain planning and Transport and Works Act applications), part of delivering Thameslink 2000 would involve six consequential national railway closures as listed above. None of the closures would be implemented unless the Thameslink 2000 project receives relevant approvals following the public inquiry and the project progresses to construction; or unless a subsequent closure proposal is submitted and approved.

Under the Railways Act 1993, the Secretary of State has to decide whether or not to allow the proposed closures. The purpose of this consultation is to seek views of current railway users to help inform the Secretary of State's decision, to supplement the consultation carried out in 1999 when the closure proposals were first made.

## **Consultation arrangements**

The details of the proposed closures and information on the Thameslink 2000 project are set out in an updated 'Statement of Reasons' for the closures, available from the Department for Transport (see **Contact details** below).

**Members of the public are invited to submit their views on the closure proposals to the Department for Transport by 13 January 2006.**

Copies of all responses will be sent to the London Transport Users Committee (LTUC – now known as London TravelWatch) who have been asked to prepare a further report for the Secretary of State on any passenger hardship arising from the closure proposals. This is expected to be completed in spring 2006. LTUC may hold public hearings to help in this process.

The Secretary of State will consider the consultation responses and further hardship report, along with other factors as required by the Railways Act 1993, in reaching a decision on the closure proposals.

## **Contact details**

Views on the closure proposals should be sent by 13 January 2006 to: Andrew Johnson, Zone 3/33, Great Minster House, 76 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DR, E-mail: [andrew.johnson@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.johnson@dft.gsi.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 020 7944 8070. Website: [www.dft.gov.uk/railways](http://www.dft.gov.uk/railways) then click Thameslink 2000.

Further details about the closure proposals can also be obtained from the Department in the following documents:

- the updated Statement of Reasons prepared in 2005
- the Statement of Reasons prepared for the initial consultation in 1999
- the hardship reports prepared by LTUC, and its predecessor the London Regional Passengers Committee, in 2000 following the initial consultation
- the original notices announcing the closure proposals published in 1999
- a letter of 17 August 2005 to the Chair of LTUC setting out the background to the further consultation.

## **Further Information**

**Thameslink 2000:** The principal objectives of Thameslink 2000 as set out in the updated 'Statement of Reasons' are: to reduce overcrowding on Thameslink and other London commuter services; reduce overcrowding on the underground; reduce the need for interchange between main-line and underground train services; provide for the introduction of new cross-London services, so improving public transport accessibility in South-East England, including access to areas of expected demand growth such as the London Bridge area, Docklands, King's Cross/St Pancras and London's airports; and facilitate the dispersal of passengers from London St Pancras following the completion of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.

**Background to closure proposals:** Notices announcing the proposed closures relating to Thameslink 2000 were published in September 1999. As required by the closure procedures in the Railways Act 1993, a Statement of Reasons for the closures was produced, consultation was carried out and the London Regional Passengers Committee (the predecessor to the London Transport Users Committee) prepared reports on hardship that might arise from the closures. However no decisions on the closure proposals were taken. This is because decisions were deferred on the applications for a Transport and Works Act (TWA) Order and planning approvals for Thameslink 2000, pending the resolution of three issues identified by the Planning Inspector following a public inquiry. Network Rail has since submitted further applications to address those issues and the public inquiry was re-opened on 6 September 2005.