

# Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum Keynote Seminar: The future of the rail network

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010

Venue: Lecture Theatre, Institution of Mechanical Engineers, 1 Birdcage Walk, Westminster, London SW1H 9JJ

Agenda subject to change

- 8.45 - 9.00 Registration
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**  
**Lord Berkeley**, Chairman, Rail Freight Group
- 9.05 - 9.25 **The context of the rail network**  
**Professor Chris Baker**, Director, Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education, University of Birmingham  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 - 9.50 **The future of the rail network**  
**Paul Plummer**, Director of Planning and Development, Network Rail  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.50 - 10.30 **Passenger rail**  
*Themes: How valid are claims that network punctuality is a concern of the past? Is ticket pricing competitive against other modes of transport? What impact will a nationwide 'Oyster type' payment system have on the passenger journey experience? How well maintained and safe are current rolling stocks? How might co-ordinated approaches to land use planning and development help ease future capacity concerns? How efficient is the planning system in ensuring that rail is integrated with other modes into a holistic and thus widely accessible transport system? What further provisions and enhancements are required to make the rail network more accessible to those people with reduced mobility?*  
**Phil Dominey**, Stakeholder Manager, South West Trains  
**Anthony Smith**, Chief Executive, Passenger Focus  
**John McNulty**, Head of Interchange, Transport for London  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 - 11.10 **Freight rail**  
*Themes: What approaches can be taken to make the end-to-end transfer of freight by rail more efficient? Would a greater number of network connections to airports and distribution centres smooth the transfer of freight? How can freight companies improve the services that they offer to businesses? What overall strategy is required to grow rail's market share of surface freight? How will competitive challenges such as the production of more and larger lorries for freight make this objective more difficult?*  
**Lindsay Durham**, Head of Rail Strategy, Freightliner Group  
**Dr Gideon Middleton**, Senior Lecturer, Business and Climate Change, Business School, University of East Anglia  
**Neil Sime**, Managing Director, Victra Railfreight  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.10 - 11.15 **Chairman's closing remarks**  
**Lord Berkeley**, Chairman, Rail Freight Group
- 11.15 - 11.35 Coffee
- 11.35 - 11.40 **Chairman's opening remarks**  
**Willie Bain MP**, Shadow Minister for Transport
- 11.40 - 12.25 **High speed rail and the wider societal impacts of the railway**  
*Themes: What impact would developing a nationwide high speed rail network have on future business productivity and economic growth? Would greater network capacity for passenger and freight customers alleviate pressure on other transport infrastructure such as the UK's road network and airports? Has the rail industry the capacity to undertake both high speed rail projects and periodic improvements to the rest of the network? How might law governing railway crossings be reviewed in order to improve safety? What approaches have been taken by the rail industry in order to minimise the sector's impact on the environment? What impact will there be on the environment if rail continues to increase its level of total modal share?*  
**Shamit Gaiger**, Head of National Programmes, Industry Strategy, Sustainable Rail Programme  
**John Segal**, Director, Rail, MVA Consultancy  
**Robert Gifford**, Executive Director, PACTS (Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety)  
**Ralph Smyth**, Senior Transport Campaigner, CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England)  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 - 12.55 **High speed rail: the progress so far**  
**Charles Horton**, Managing Director, Southeastern  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's and Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum closing remarks**  
**Willie Bain MP**, Shadow Minister for Transport  
**Michael Ryan**, Senior Producer, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum