

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

Date: 1st July 2010

Venue: Central London

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.45 - 9.00 Registration
- 9.00 - 9.05 Chairman's opening remarks
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 - 9.25 The context of the rail network
Academic
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 - 10.35 Passenger rail
Themes: How valid are claims that network punctuality is a concern of the past? What strategies are required to transform the rail network into a 'turn up and go system'? 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?
Anthony Smith, Chief Executive, Passenger Focus
Senior representative, technology
Senior representative, operator
Senior representative, planning
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.35 - 11.20 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 rails 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?
Senior representative, freight
Senior representative, business
Senior representative, analyst
Senior representative, engineer
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.20 - 11.25 Chairman's closing remarks
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.25 - 11.45 Coffee break
- 11.45 - 11.50 Chairman's opening remarks
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.50 - 12.30 Wider societal impacts of the railway
Themes: Would greater network capacity for passenger and freight customers alleviate pressure on other transport infrastructure such as the UK's road network and airports? What impact would developing the rail network have on business productivity and economic growth? Would markets related to rail, such as tourism, benefit from a network that offered more frequent services and a greater choice of destinations? What approaches have been taken by the rail industry in order to minimise the sectors impact on the environment? What impact will there be on the environment if rail continues to increase its level of total modal share?
Ralph Smyth, Senior Transport Campaigner, Campaign to Protect Rural England
Senior representative, economist
Senior representative, analyst
Senior representative, environment
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 - 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
Senior Parliamentarian
Peter van Gelder, Director, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum