

Wirral loop line track renewal

November 2016

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to ensure you are aware of the essential infrastructure renewal programme starting on the Merseyrail network early in the new year and to seek your support in keeping the Liverpool City Region moving while the work takes place.

We have put together a checklist and case studies, covering some of the things you may be able to do to play your part, which would enable your business to continue to work effectively and minimising the impact for staff. Web banners, posters and information booklets are also available. All of these materials can be found at www.merseyrail.org/toolkit

Network Rail will carry out six months of track renewal on the city centre underground sections of the Wirral line, starting in January 2017. This programme is part of a £340m investment in rail improvements in the Liverpool city region over the next three years, funded by Network Rail and the Liverpool city region through the government's Growth Deal.

It will mean that Wirral line trains will not be able to serve Moorfields, Lime Street and Liverpool Central stations. At certain times, trains towards Liverpool will be unable to travel beyond Birkenhead Central and Birkenhead North.

Northern line services will remain unaffected throughout and call at Moorfields and Liverpool Central as normal.

The track in the underground 'loop', which forms the one way section of the Wirral line under Liverpool city centre, was built in the 1970s, and now needs to be replaced. To minimise disruption, Network Rail is also taking the opportunity to replace the track under the riverbed at the same time.

Phase 1

From Tuesday 3 January 2017 till Sunday 12 February 2017, there will be no Wirral line trains beyond Birkenhead Central and Birkenhead North towards Liverpool.

(cont)



Phase 2

From Monday 13 February 2017 till Monday 29 May 2017, Wirral line trains will run as far as James Street on weekdays. At the weekends, trains will run only as far as Birkenhead North and Birkenhead Central, as in phase 1. However, on bank holidays weekends, and the Saturday of the Grand National, they will run to James Street.

Phase 3

From Tuesday 30 May 2017 till Sunday 18 June 2017, there will again be no Wirral line trains beyond Birkenhead Central and Birkenhead North towards Liverpool.

Merseyrail, working with Merseytravel and Network Rail, is doing everything possible to ensure that Wirral line passengers can continue to travel into Liverpool city centre, by using alternative transport, such as high quality, express replacement bus services, the Mersey Ferries or existing cross-river bus services.

We are strongly advising against using the car at peak times. The Mersey Tunnels and surrounding roads can accommodate additional buses but will not cope with an increase in cars without causing significant congestion. This is the key message we would like your help in communicating to your staff.

Full information about the work and travel options is available at www.merseyrail.org/trackrenewal and booklets, which can be picked up at Merseyrail stations.

We are also running a monthly forum both in the run-up to the work and after it gets underway. Anyone interested in attending should contact railimprovements@Merseytravel.gov.uk

While we appreciate that the Wirral line track renewal work will be disruptive, we hope, like us, that you welcome the £340m investment and the transformational improvements it will ultimately bring.

Yours faithfully,



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Merseytravel



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