Secretary of State for Transport
c/o Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit
Department for Transport
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The Quadrant
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Milton Keynes
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7 March 2025

BY EMAIL ONLY

Transport and Works Act
Application for the Cambridge South East Transport route ('the application')

This letter contains representations by East West Railway Company Limited ('EWR Co') in relation to the application for the above-mentioned Order.

EWR Co strongly supports the principle of the proposed Cambridge South East Transport ('CSET') project. The CSET project will enhance public transport, improve connectivity to employment sites and support the continued growth of Cambridge and South Cambridge's economy, outcomes which are very much aligned with the objectives of East West Rail ('EWR').

The proposed limits of land to be acquired or used for CSET, as identified on the works and land plans submitted with the application, include some areas of land safeguarded by the Secretary of State for the proposed EWR railway. At this stage, it appears that the CSET proposals for the safeguarded land do not involve a material conflict with the EWR proposals. EWR Co is having constructive discussions with the applicant, Cambridgeshire County Council ('CCC'), and the scheme promoter, the Greater Cambridge Partnership ('GCP') to understand the interface between the two projects and these discussions will continue to ensure suitable arrangements are put in place to avoid or manage any potential conflicts.

About EWR

EWR Co is the organisation responsible for delivering EWR, a project of national significance that will provide frequent, fast, and reliable rail links for communities between Oxford, Milton Keynes, Bedford, and Cambridge. The EWR proposals involve the construction of a new railway between Bedford and Cambridge and the upgrading of existing railway between Oxford and Bedford.

Some elements of EWR are already consented and under construction. The first EWR services will begin operations in 2025, running between Oxford, Bletchley, and Milton Keynes. In the 2024 Autumn Budget, the government committed to the delivery of EWR including funding to accelerate delivery of the works needed for services to run between Oxford and Bedford from 2030.
The proposed new railway between Bedford and Cambridge and the associated works to the wider

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network will be the subject of an application for a development consent order ('DCO') under the Planning Act 2008.

EWR Co has recently undertaken a non-statutory consultation on its proposals for the DCO application which have been developed following feedback from previous consultations undertaken in 2019 and 2021, as well as further technical design work. EWR Co's proposals are set out in the consultation documents.

On 14th November 2024 the Secretary of State gave safeguarding directions in respect of EWR to protect the route of the proposed railway from conflicting development. The safeguarding directions, associated maps and guidance can be found here.

Interface between the EWR and CSET projects

The CSET application seeks authorisation for the construction of the busway and associated works on land that falls within the area safeguarded for EWR. The overlap with the safeguarded land occurs where the proposed busway is to be built alongside the existing railway (West Anglian Main Line) to the east of Addenbrooke's Road and south of the new Cambridge South station under construction by Network Rail. In this area, EWR Co proposes to construct two new tracks to the west of the West Anglian Main Line on the approach into Cambridge. The proposed CSET Order would provide powers to acquire and use land in this area for the purposes of the authorised works.

Representation

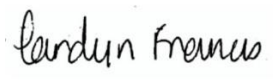
As the CSET project includes land safeguarded for EWR it is appropriate that suitable arrangements are put in place between the parties to manage the interface effectively. The arrangements need to ensure that any order authorising the CSET project does not prejudice the delivery of EWR. EWR Co, CCC and the GCP have been working together in the development of their respective projects. This constructive engagement will continue with a view to agreeing suitable arrangements to manage the interface between the two projects.

EWR Co will keep the Secretary of State updated on the outcome of these discussions during the consideration and determination of the application.

Any correspondence in relation to EWR Co's representation should be sent either by email to: townplanning@eastwestrail.co.uk or by post to:

EWR Town Planning Manager
c/o Adams Hendry Consulting Ltd.
Sheridan House
40-43 Jewry Street
Winchester
Hampshire,
SO23 8RY

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Francis
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East West Railway Company