

NEW RAIL STATION PROPOSED FOR CAMBRIDGE

CAST.IRON urges government to consider new site

CAST.IRON has written to the government to propose a new north Cambridge station that can be delivered within two years at an affordable cost. It proposes a station adjacent to Milton Road [the main road into Cambridge from the north] which would be very close to Cambridge's Science and Business Parks and the Regional College.

The station could be opened at the same time as new platforms at Cambridge station next year and through services to Stansted and London could be provided, slashing journey times for thousands of workers and residents.

Tim Phillips, chairman of CAST.IRON, described the plan as 'a low-cost, win-win scheme'.

"The new station could be open in around eighteen months with minimal disruption to rail services and no road closures during construction. Now that plans for Chesterton station are looking increasingly wobbly, costing up to eight times our proposal and not due to open for years if at all, this is exactly what Cambridge needs right now", said Mr Phillips.

The Milton Road location for a station was suggested in 2004 at the guided busway public inquiry.

"There are real advantages to reopening the rail route as far as Milton Road", said Mr Phillips. "At the inquiry, the County Council's consultants suggested that a level crossing at Milton Road would cause too much congestion when closed to road traffic. We agreed that rail services could terminate to the east of Milton Road, creating direct rail links for thousands of workers at the Science Park and the other business parks in the area, students at Cambridge Regional College, and of course all the residents of north Cambridge".

CAST.IRON is presenting its proposals to the Greater Anglia Rail Franchise consultation at the Department for Transport but the document can be viewed by anyone at www.castiron.org.uk/MiltonRoad.

With less than a mile of track required for the project, construction costs could be as little as £3 million compared with at least £24 million for the proposed Chesterton station.

The platform length would be for four or eight carriages, depending on the outcome of further consultations, meaning that services arriving in Cambridge from London can be split, with half going forward to Ely and King's Lynn and the other half to Milton Road.

"The pattern and frequency of Cambridge's rail services has changed little in a decade while passenger numbers have rocketed. Our proposal will go a long way towards easing crowding at Cambridge station itself as well as offering Science Park to London journey times of around 50 minutes with Stansted just 35 minutes away.

"I am delighted to be bringing some positive transport news to Cambridge at last", said Mr Phillips.

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