



## HIGHLAND MAIN LINE

### Programme

#### Q Why is the project being delivered?

**A** The upgrade to the Highland Main Line (HML) supports the introduction of ScotRail's High Speed Trains (HSTs) and improved timetable. This project is part of the Scottish Government's ongoing investment in Scotland's railway.

#### Q What works will be undertaken?

**A** There are two specific locations along the route where enabling works will be carried out:

**Aviemore:** We will be extending the passing loop to the north of Aviemore, carrying out associated track and accommodation works as well as re-signalling works.

**Pitlochry:** We will be reconfiguring and extending platforms 1 and 2, carrying out associated track and accommodation works as well as re-signalling works. The platform works will include the removal of the wooden platforms to the south of the station and also the removal of the engineering siding (which allows for the platform extension).

Three level crossings - Dundarach, Prospect Place and East Cottages - will be upgraded as part of the re-signalling works.

In addition to these works we will be developing proposals to improve the access arrangements within both stations.

#### Q What are the timescales?

**A** A programme of infrastructure improvements undertaken in 2012 during phase one of the project has already increased the number of services from 9 to 11 trains per day in each direction.

Phase two of the scheme aims to deliver an hourly service with average journey times reduced by around 10 minutes, alongside other timetable improvements.

These works will enable the longer HSTs to pass each other more efficiently at both stations.

Works to upgrade the line are due to be completed in March 2019 with the introduction of the new timetable in May 2019.



#### Q What are the benefits?

- A**
- Phase two of the scheme aims to deliver an hourly service with average journey times reduced by around 10 minutes.
  - The project will deliver an improved level of service for all stations along the route. The number of ScotRail and long distance trains between Inverness and the central belt will have increased from 11 in each direction at the start of the project to 15 in 2019 – almost a 40% increase. The new timetable will provide an hourly service between Inverness, Aviemore, Pitlochry to Perth and Edinburgh or Glasgow. Carrbridge, Kingussie, Newtonmore, Dalwhinnie, Blair Atholl and Dunkeld & Birnam will have a better spread of services throughout the day to Inverness, Perth, Edinburgh and Glasgow.
  - ScotRail forecast that the project will result in 150,000 additional passenger journeys each year, with every station between Perth and Inverness experiencing an increase in passenger numbers.
  - These improvements will help make rail a more viable public transport choice for all of the communities along the corridor.
  - Enhanced freight operations.

#### Q How much will this cost?

**A** This project is being funded by Transport Scotland with a current estimate of circa £57m.

If you have any queries relating to the improvement works, please contact the project team by

☎ 03457 11 41 41 ✉ HighlandMainline@networkrail.co.uk 🐦 @NetworkRailHML 🌐 www.networkrail.co.uk/HML



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### Construction

#### Q Will there be night time working?

**A** Wherever possible, Network Rail and our contractors will undertake the work during the day. However, there will be a requirement to undertake night time working along some sections of the route. It is safer for our staff and contractors to deliver certain works when trains are not running. We are also regulated to work in a way that minimises impact on train services.

Notification letters will be sent to affected neighbours.

### Travel: timetable and disruption

#### Q Will there be any disruption to train travel during the works?

**A** Network Rail is regulated to work in a way that minimises impact on train services. However, some elements of the work can only be carried out when the trains are not running.

In October and November 2018 the project will require a series of line closures across five weekends in order to undertake essential track and signalling works. There is also a further weekend closure planned for March 2019.

Details of the disruption associated with the line closures, including information for customers regarding bus replacement services, will be shared in due course.

For further customer and timetabling information please visit [www.scotrail.co.uk/highlandmainline](http://www.scotrail.co.uk/highlandmainline).

#### Q How is the new timetable being developed?

**A** The draft timetable has been developed with the involvement of communities, interest groups and transport authorities from along the route and can be found at [www.scotrail.co.uk/highlandmainline](http://www.scotrail.co.uk/highlandmainline).

Feedback on the draft timetable is being collated. To view the proposals go to [www.scotrail.co.uk/highlandmainline](http://www.scotrail.co.uk/highlandmainline). Comments can be submitted to [HighlandMainLine@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:HighlandMainLine@networkrail.co.uk).

Work is now underway to finalise the timetable incorporating feedback received as well as the needs of other passenger and freight rail operators. This work should be completed by the end of summer 2018.

The timetable is being designed to deliver considerable connectivity improvements for communities along the route and for access to the central belt.



#### Q How will the improvements affect the rail timetable?

**A** Phase two of the scheme aims to deliver an hourly service with average journey times reduced by around 10 minutes. The new timetable will also seek to improve the times of first and last trains between Inverness and the central belt and provide a better distribution of calls at the intermediate stations between Perth and Inverness. These improvements will help make rail a more viable public transport choice for all of the communities along the corridor.

### Communications

#### Q How will the community be kept up to date?

**A** We will endeavour to keep the local community updated on the progress of the project. Further information on the project can be at [www.networkrail.co.uk/HML](http://www.networkrail.co.uk/HML).

Key project milestones will be communicated to residents via traditional media and social media. In addition, notification letters of planned works will be sent to affected residents ahead of time in order to best indicate the dates / times / type of work which will be undertaken.

For more information, please phone the Network Rail 24-hr national helpline on 03457 11 41 41.

If you have any queries relating to the improvement works, please contact the project team by

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