

Connectivity from Heathrow to Cardiff

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Western Rail Link to Heathrow (WRLtH)

- Excitement and enthusiasm
- Present position
- Developed scheme
- Outcomes and benefits
- Timetable
- Next steps: the opportunity and support needed

£500m Heathrow spur 'one of most important events for Wales in 50 years'

Western Mail headline 13 July 2012



It will give people ‘a quick, easy, sustainable way of getting to one of the biggest airports in the world’

‘Anything that improves links to and from ...overseas markets is going to be huge shot in the arm’

‘Heathrow... is ...one of the Welsh gateways to the world, so easier travel from South Wales to the airport is good, not just for holiday-makers but for business as well’

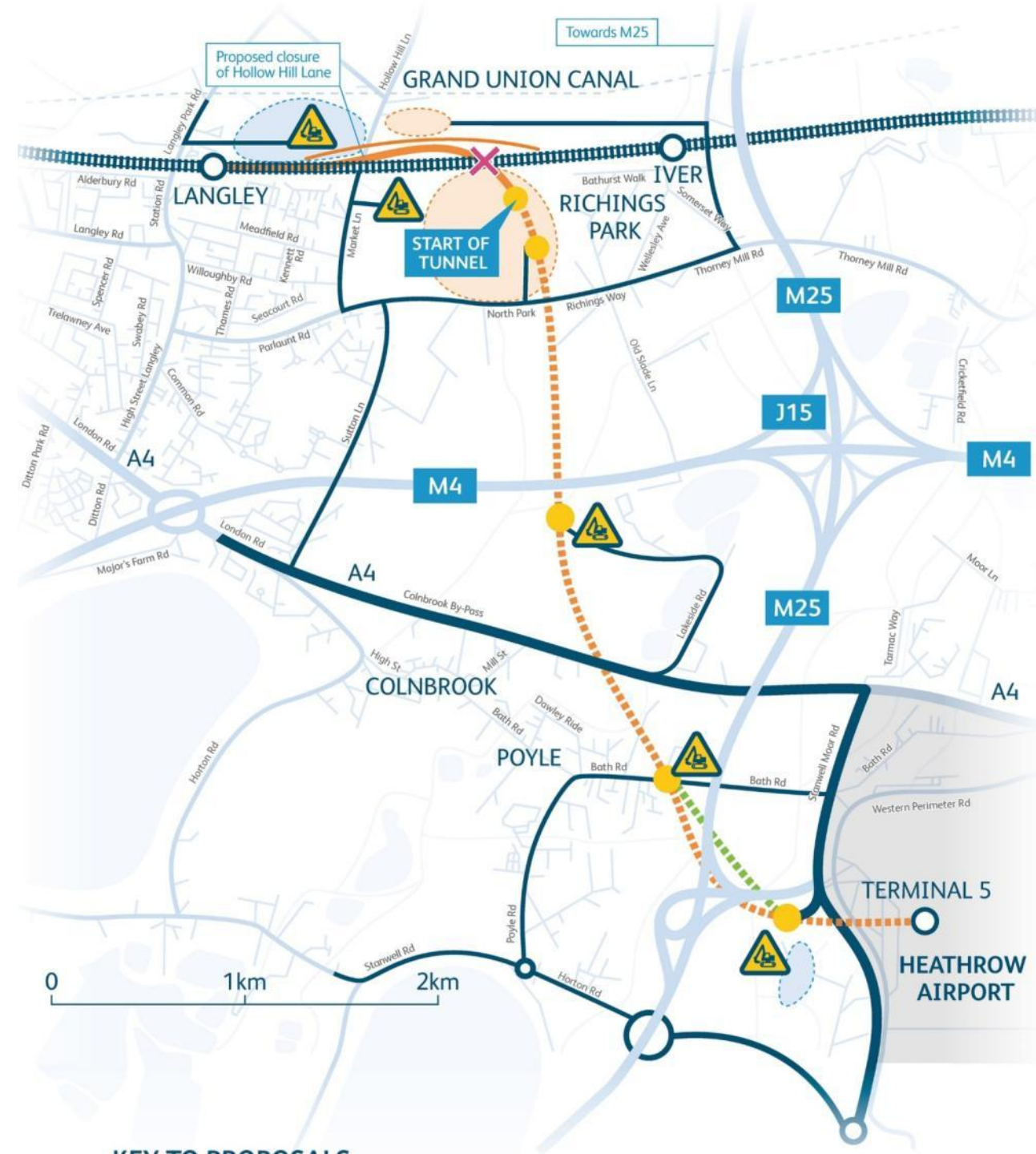
The present position

- Heathrow - the UK's only hub airport and the busiest, handles nearly 70 million passengers each year
- Unlike most European hub airports it has rail access in only one direction
- Roads around Heathrow are reaching critical congestion – increasing journey times and reducing reliability
- Rail journeys from the west require a journey in and out of London
- Access to Heathrow is a critical factor in business decision making
- Rail journey time from Cardiff is about 2hrs 50mins



WRLtH

- 6.5km rail link from Heathrow T5 to the mainline
- 5km tunnel
- Trains direct to Reading, Slough and intermediate stations
- 4 trains per hour each way
- Strong business case based on a two runway airport
- Possible through routes?



The outcome

- Faster, more frequent, more reliable train services to the UK's hub airport for more than 12 million people
- Significantly improved rail connectivity from the Thames Valley, South Wales, South West, South Coast and West Midlands
- **30 minutes** off the journey time to South Wales changing at Reading
- No change in London and reduced passenger congestion at Paddington
- Reduced congestion on roads including the M4, M3 and M25
- Lower CO₂ emissions equivalent to about 30 million road miles per year



Benefits

- Increased attractiveness to business investment and growth in all locations benefiting
- Improved ease of access to support export and international links
- £800 million increase in economic activity
- £1.5 billion in business efficiency savings
- 42,000 new jobs

* Benefits based on a two runway airport, 2011



Timetable

- Initial approval 2012
- Options appraisal, design and development completed
- Statutory consultation completed 2018
- Completion of final business case spring 2019
- Subject to funding approval, submission of Development Consent Order application June 2019
- Determination of DCO estimated autumn 2020
- Line opens 2027



What next? Prepare for the opportunity

- Consider the need for station and access improvements
- Consider opportunities around stations
- Promote the opportunity to potential investors, international trading partners, global HQs
- Consider global business and trade opportunities accessible via Heathrow
- Prepare for new opportunities via Cardiff airport

What next? Support the scheme

- Talk to local MPs
- Discuss support in Council meetings
- Provide support at critical decision points
- Watch the Network Rail and Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce websites
- Sign up for email alerts

WRLtH

*'a quick, easy, sustainable way of
getting to one of the biggest airports
in the world'*

Thank you

