

Western Rail Link to Heathrow

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Chair, WRLtH Working Group

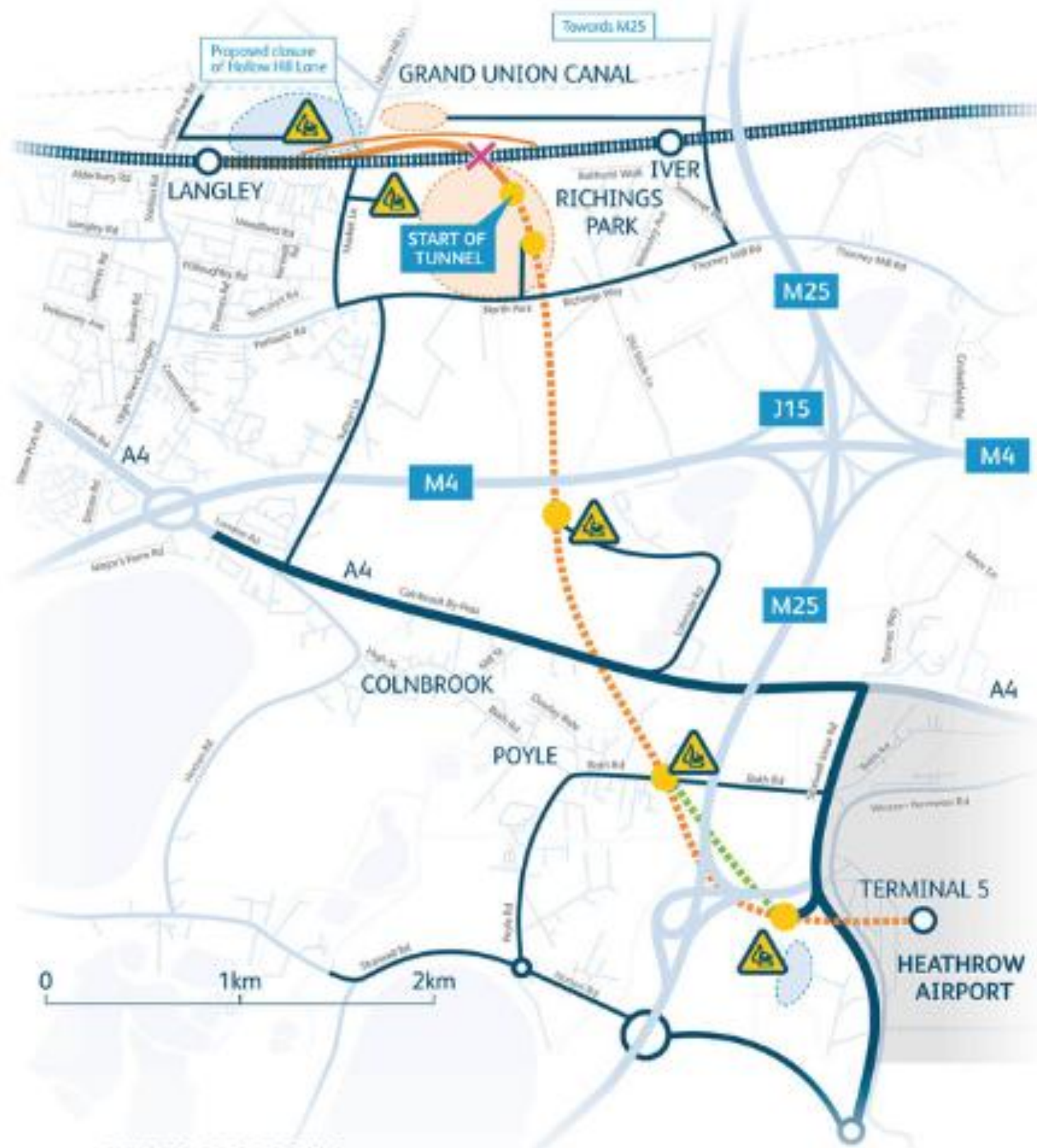


- Brief History
- More recent events
- The Case: Facts and figures
- Get involved

What is WRLtH?

A standalone scheme, based on a two-runway airport with a case independent of Heathrow's expansion.





KEY TO PROPOSALS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| RAIL EXTENSION | MAIN COMPOUNDS |
| TUNNEL | SMALLER SITE COMPOUNDS (Indicative only) |
| NEW LINES ON EMBANKMENT | FLOOD STORAGE AREA |
| POTENTIAL CHANGE TO PATH OF TUNNEL | NEW RAILWAY INTERSECTION BRIDGE |
| ACCESS ROUTES TO COMPOUNDS | EXISTING HEATHROW BOUNDARY |
| ACCESS BUILDING | EXISTING STATION |

6.5K rail link



Largely via a tunnel between the Great Western Main Line and London Heathrow Airport, leaving the Main Line east of Langley

Shuttle service every 15 minutes



Reduce journey times by **at least 30 minutes** for all stations with direct access to Reading



Direct access from **Reading, Maidenhead and Slough** without having to travel via London Paddington

Development of the case

Addressed a deficiency in access when compared to many international hubs

Scheme arose from feedback from the Thames Valley business community and rapidly gathered support across multiple regions

Became apparent the benefits would be to a far greater footprint and were broader

Environmental



Social



Economy of UK plc

Western Mail headline 13 July 2012

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

Rhodri Morgan, First Minister

The case

A fully developed and costed project

capable of rapid delivery
subject only to planning
and final funding approval

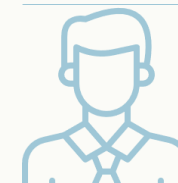
Value for money
and with well-
evidenced
Return on
Investment to
HMG and
business



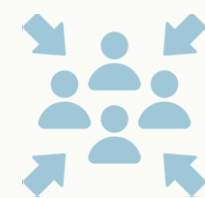
No known
obstacles to
delivery

Broad stakeholder
support across the
benefitting regions:

Local
government



MPs



Senedd



Universities

Business and
business
umbrella bodies



72%

Consultees in
support

Original business case



increase in
economic activity



jobs



in efficiency
savings

Network Rail estimate

Reduced CO2 emissions
equivalent to



fewer road miles per year

More recent events

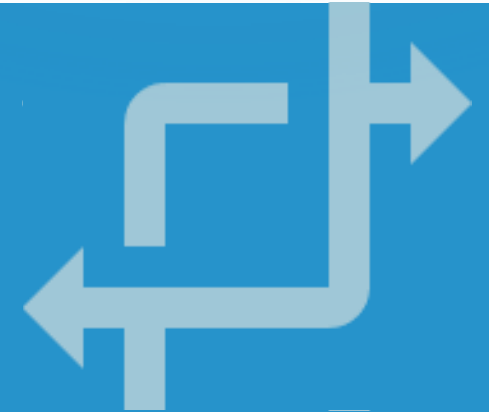
- Development by Network Rail 2012 to 2019
- Business case approved by Treasury in 2019, subject only to funding approval, prior to planning submission
- Negotiation of funding agreement close to conclusion early 2020
- Third runway decisions
- Covid - impact on aviation and resources
- Controlled pause

More recent events

- TVCC commits to finding a funding and finance solution
- Possible private finance model developed by specialists
- Now preparing to test the model against an updated business and benefits case
- Maintaining continuous links with DfT
- Revitalising our lobbying and stakeholder engagement:
 - APPG and MPs
 - Ministers and Shadows
 - Re-launch of wider engagement
- Passenger numbers at Heathrow reach pre-Covid peak

The case

Transformational – bringing substantive improvement in connectivity to 14 million people
(Reducing the travel time to the whole catchment by a min 30 minutes)



Increasing the attractiveness of the benefitting area to existing businesses and to potential investors and increase GVA

Serving and supporting regional economies in south Wales, the Southwest, South Central and Midlands including regions hardest hit by Covid-19
A “levelling up” project



The case

A growth project

stimulating business investment and retention throughout the catchment of multiple regions



A catalyst

for the recovery of business confidence, inward investment, international trade and inbound tourism across the benefitting areas



A vital stimulus

to the further recovery of the UK aviation industry



The case

A carbon reduction project – delivering UK climate change targets and mitigating the impact of Heathrow



Reducing pollution and congestion on major roads and motorways

Delivering a modal shift from road to rail



Addressing the Government's objective of Union Connectivity

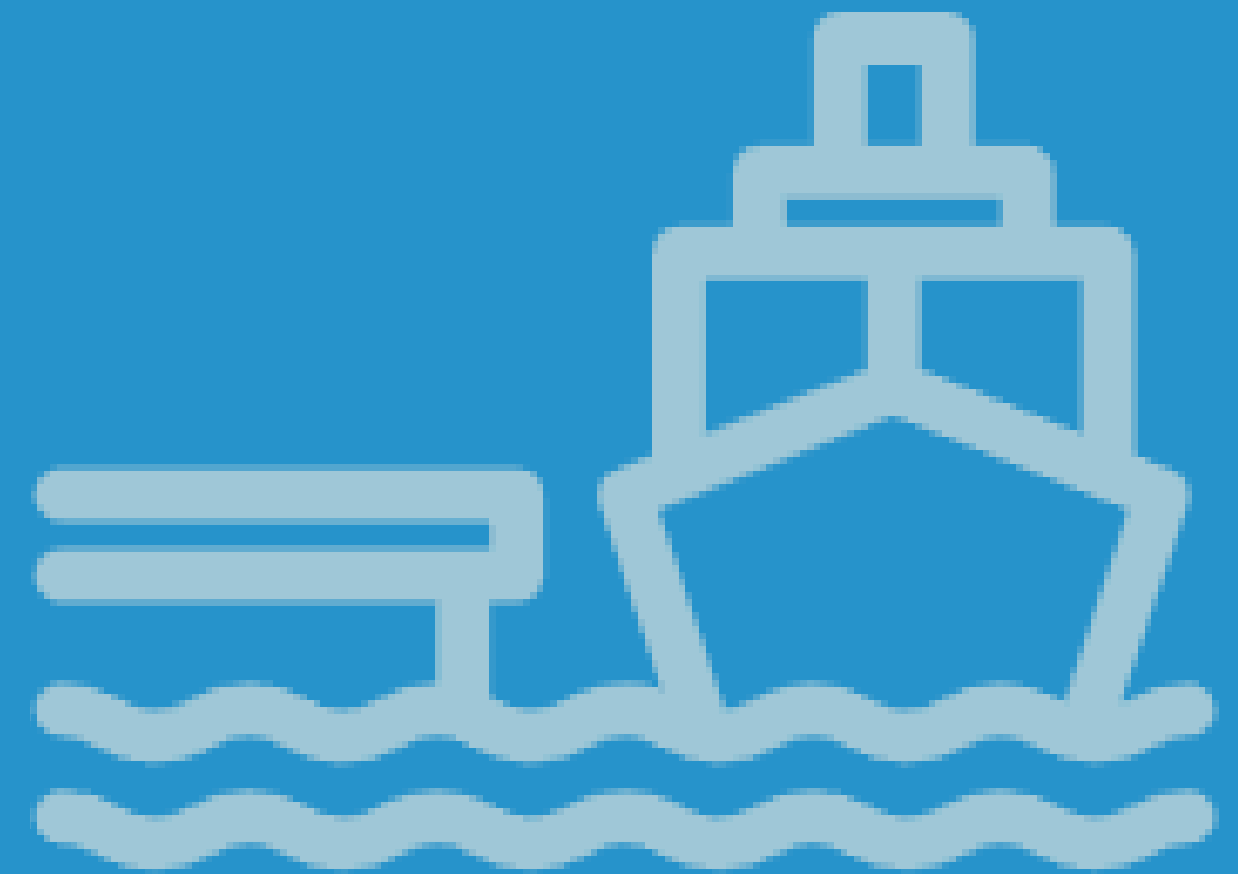


The case

Increases the attractiveness of tourism areas to overseas visitors, and of universities to international research partners



**Improves freight access to Heathrow
(the UK's biggest port by value)**



The case

Offers additional resilience

to the rail network and reduces congestion at Paddington

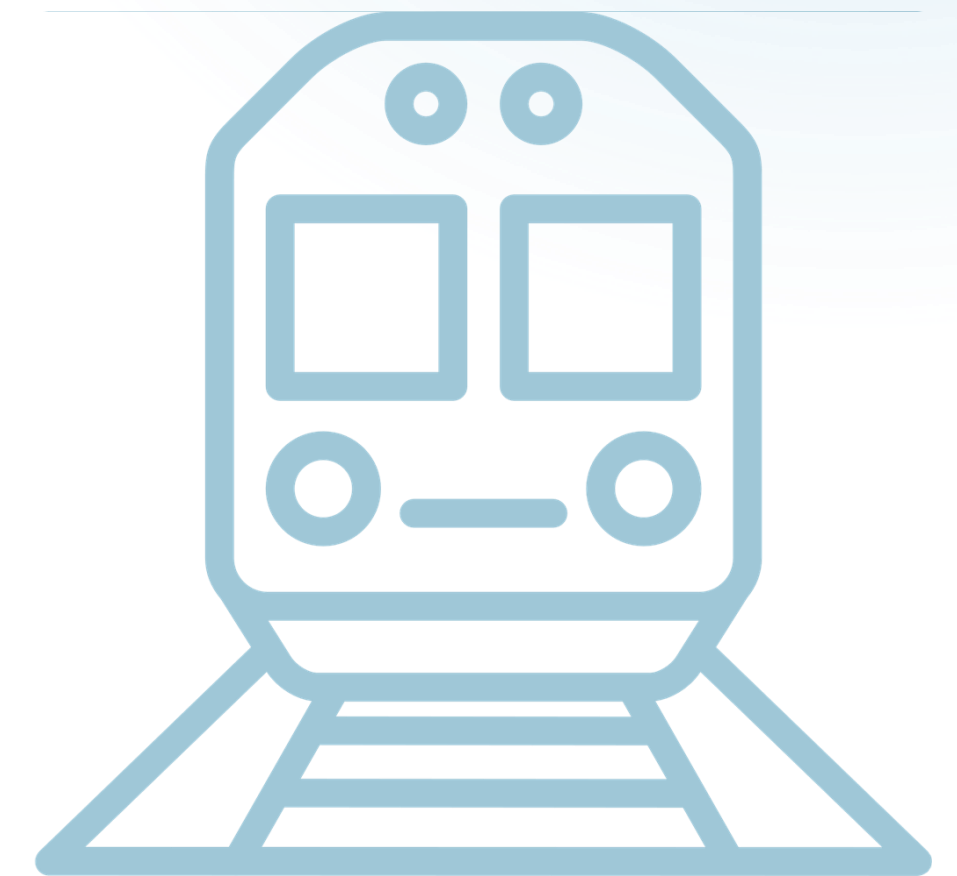


Increases passenger choice

and offers frequency, reliability and convenience



Makes greater use of investment in



Reading station

Summary

A fully developed and costed project, capable of rapid delivery of:

Economic
benefits to
UK plc



Growth



Improved
access for



million
people

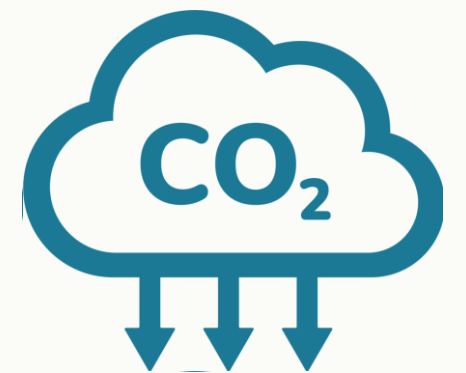
Levelling up



Union
connectivity



Carbon
reduction



Broad support and no known obstacles to delivery

WRLtH

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

Heather Joyce, then Leader of Cardiff City
Council

Get involved

For more information and to join our stakeholder list:

<https://www.thamesvalleychamber.co.uk/infrastructure/>

For a more detailed conversation:

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