

# Transport Integration Forum

LNR South

14/01/2021



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# Agenda

- **1300** - Intros
- **1310** - Business update – *Andrew McGill*
  - Questions
- **1330** - Stations as Places update – *Rebecca Preece*
- **1340** – Apsley ‘Access for All’ Scheme – *Rebecca Preece*
  - Questions
- **1350** - Minor Works update – *Rebecca Preece*
- **1400** - Community Transport toolkit update and next steps – *Rebecca Preece*
- **1410** – AOB and questions
- **1430** - Close

# Actions from previous meeting

- RP to Investigate options to help bikes up and down stairs at stations
- RP to look at cycle provision at Bow Brickhill and contact Red Bull

# Business Update



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# Business Update: Passenger Behaviour

- Passenger numbers fell to 5-10% of pre-Covid levels during the first lockdown in March/April 2020
- Numbers had recovered to c.30% of pre-Covid levels when the second lockdown was imposed on Nov 5
- Numbers fell to c. 15% during the lockdown – not as sharply as the March/April lockdown.
- High numbers were anticipated to travel during the Christmas Travel Window – but eventually cancelled



# Business Update: Where we are today

- Passenger numbers have fallen again during current lockdown to c. 8-10%
- Running an extremely reliable service – over 90% PPM is now routine. We have ‘Covid-proofed’ trains and stations and are running longer trains
- Many timetable changes – currently running c.85% of pre-Covid services ahead of a small stepdown next week
- Feeling impact of Covid-19 on our staff – one-in-three impacted at some point



# Business Update: Amended Timetable

- Amendments from Monday 18 January until further notice to provide appropriate service level
- Changes reflect very low passenger numbers and the impact of Covid-19 on our staff



- Fewer afternoon trains on lines via Birmingham Snow Hill
- Rail replacement on Leamington Spa – Nuneaton route
- Earlier finish of 8pm for the Stourbridge 'Town Car'



- Rail replacement on Marston Vale and Abbey branch lines
- Fewer peak services to and from London Euston



# Business Update: Community Schemes

- Recipients of our £1.7m Customer & Communities Improvement Fund (CCIF) announced this month
- Further schemes will be operated – discussions with DfT over timing



Jewellery Quarter CCIF scheme



# Business Update: Looking Forward

- Industry very optimistic for a big post-vaccine 'return to rail' later in 2021
- Marketing campaigns being devised to encourage customers to return
- Relaunched our “Whistle Stop Tour” sessions online – first podcast is due to be posted this month



# Any questions?



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# Stations as Places – an update



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# Stations as Places (SAP)

- WMT's commitment to station travel plans
  - 79 in total, plus community stations
- Focus on opportunities to improve links between stations and their local area
- **Opportunity prospectus** for each station to identify and assist with future funding opportunities for improvements
- Covid-19 rethinking and recovery

# Status Update – LNR south

## Completed Prospectuses - 21

Abbey Line – 7 stations

Marston Vale Line – 10 stations

Milton Keynes Central

Cheddington

Tring

Hemel Hempstead

## In Progress – 3

Tamworth

Wilnecote

Atherstone

## In Progress - 2

Bletchley

Watford Junction

# Next priorities for LNR

- Wolverton – update existing plans
- Northampton
- Leighton Buzzard



# Progress update - Watford Junction

- Prospectus being led by ITP
- Initial research complete, recognising Watford Junction Station as a strategic development area and economic driver for the town.
- Currently Identifying and contacting stakeholders ahead of consultation in Spring 2021
- **Forecourt improvements** – an example of collaborative working to deliver improvements quickly!
  - Beryl Bike Share installation outside station
  - Vibrant and welcoming gateway
  - Community & business station adoption





# Getting involved

[accessibility@wmtrains.co.uk](mailto:accessibility@wmtrains.co.uk)

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# Any Questions?



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# Apsley 'Access for All' Scheme



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# What is Access For All?

Network Rail scheme to provide step free access to all platforms with compliant paving and signage.

Installation of lifts to  
all platforms

Installation of  
corduroy paving for  
the stairs to  
platforms

Wayfinding signage  
for disabled  
passengers in the  
booking hall



# Apsley Station – key facts

- Commuter Station on the West Coast Main Line - close proximity to Hemel Hempstead Station
- 667,192 footfall (2018/19)
- Service pattern:
  - Half hourly to London and Tring (Mon-Sat)
  - Hourly to London on a Sunday.
  - Half hourly service to Milton Keynes Central on a Saturday.



# Apsley Station – current accessibility

- 4 platform station with a stepped footbridge to platforms 1 – 3
- No step free access to Platform 4 for southbound services to London Euston
- Station Ticket Office staffed part-time – alternative access and TVMs available



# Identified areas for improvement

- Footbridge – poor drainage creates ponding and slipping hazard
- Lighting levels could be improved
- Lack of accessible toilet and waiting room
- Stepped access to waiting shelters on platforms
- Interaction of infrastructure with suicide prevention gates
- Accessible TVM is located close to a curb which is marked with hazard tape



## Next steps

- Submit client requirements to Network Rail for comment / inclusion in their Client Requirements Document that will be used to look at initial options by their project team.

# Any Questions?



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# Minor Works



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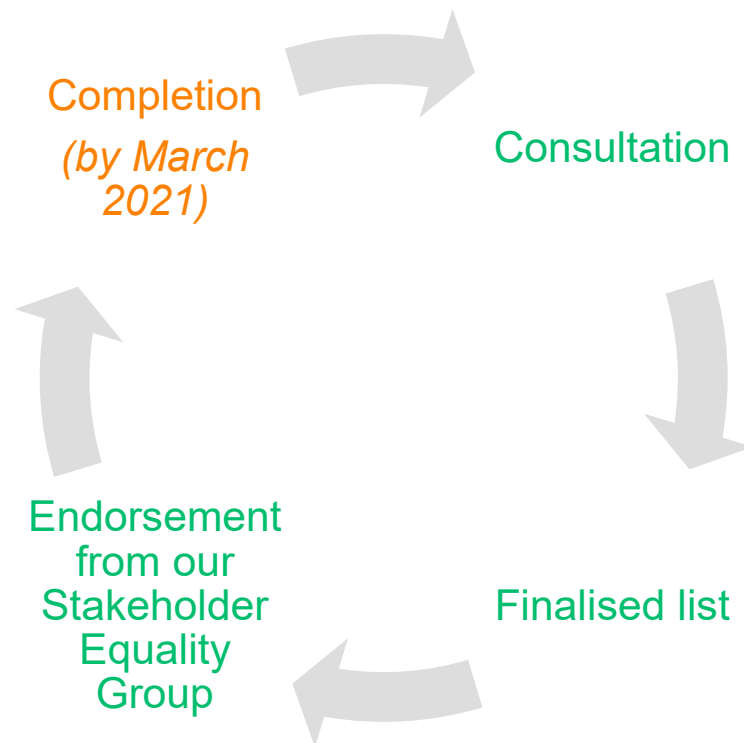
# What is covered?

- Minor works to improve accessibility at stations
- Does not include replacements, repairs or platform tactiles

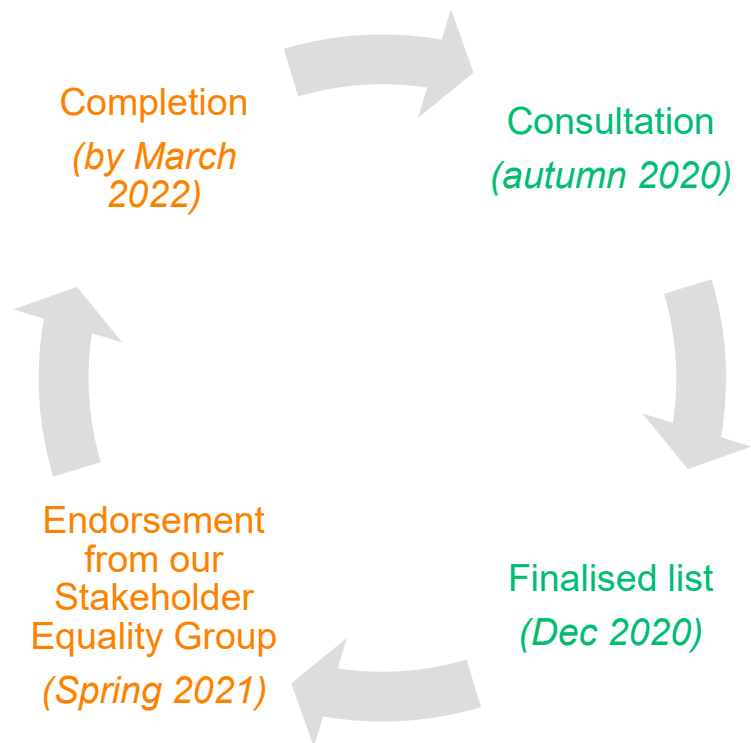


# Minor works lifecycle

**2020 – 2021**



**2021 – 2022**



## 2021 – 2022 final list

- £329,000 will be spent on over 40 projects including:
  - New shelters and seating areas
  - Amendments to station signage
  - New dual height handrails
  - Automatic doors
  - Tactile paving on staircases

# Nominations covered by other workstreams

- **Cycle schemes budget**
  - Installation of cycle channels on stairs
- **DCIS project**
  - New digital customer information screens





# Community Transport



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# Our committed obligations

We are required to spend £10,000 per year to improve links between local communities and railway stations, where local bus links are poor.

Additional budget of circa £80k to support SMEs, including local community transport operators

- Various options:
  - To fund or part-fund a project
  - To support research into a project
  - To improve engagement

# Our new toolkit

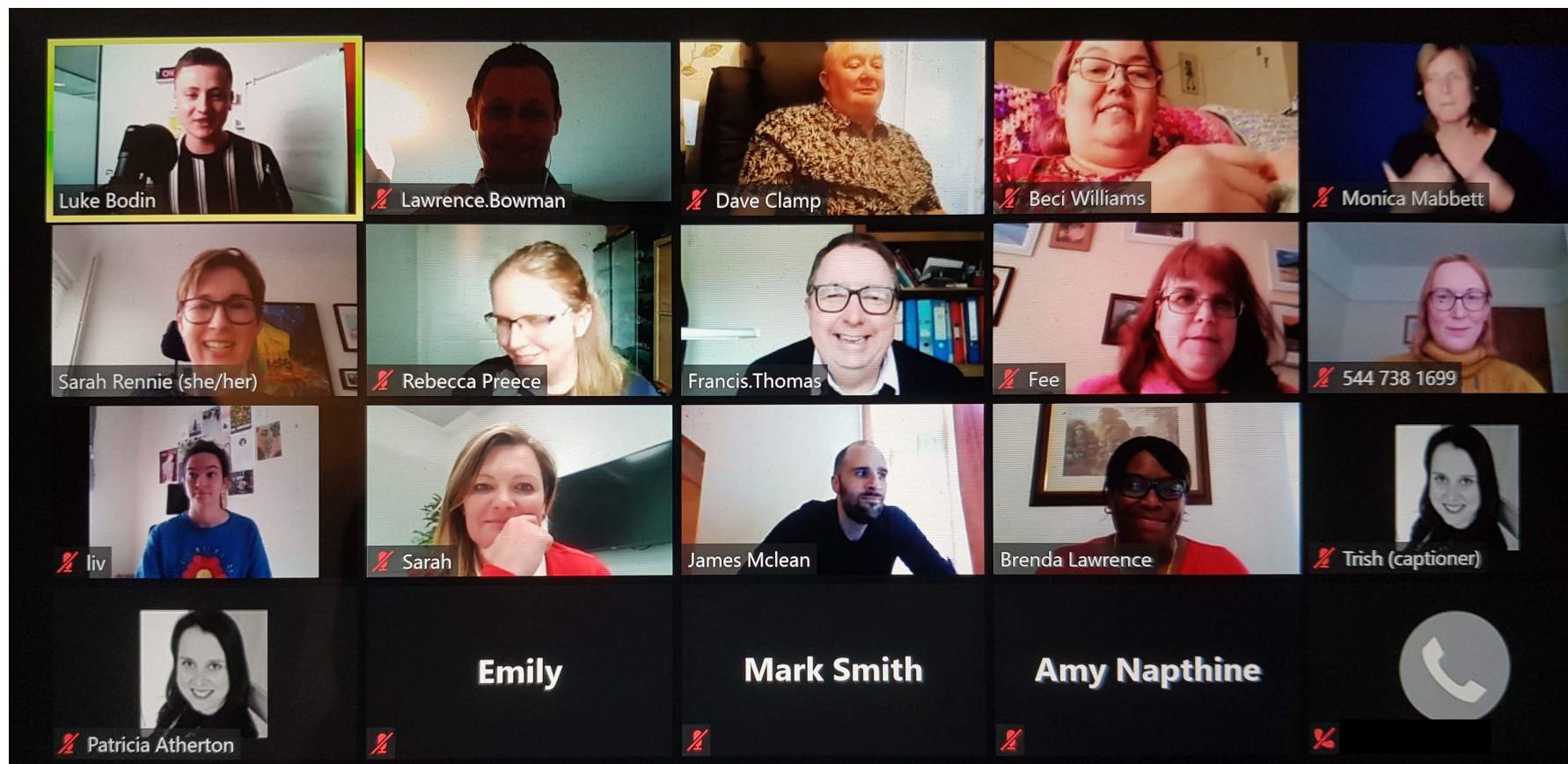
- The benefits for Community Transport operators and rail working together
- Opportunities
- Case studies
- Partners to engage with
- Funding options
- Putting together proposals

*More information available on request.*



# Engagement

Could we support you with engagement through our Stakeholder Equality Group?



# Ready to submit proposals?

- Aims, objectives and clear intended outcomes of the project or service
- Background to the project, who has been involved and how it has been developed
- Evidence of need / demand
- Options considered and why a particular one is preferred
- Details of the project or service proposal, how it will operate and who it will help
- How the project links with other initiatives and existing services
- Timescales for implementation
- Costs, revenue projections and wider benefits
- How success will be measured and the project monitored
- How the project will be sustained
- Risks and potential mitigations
- Letters of support

**Any other  
business /  
questions?**



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# Next Meetings

- Thursday 15 April
  - 1pm – 2.30pm
- Thursday 15 July
  - 1pm – 2.30pm
- Thursday 14 October
  - 1pm – 2.30pm