

Dawson, Phil

From: George.Thomas
Sent: 08 April 2015 19:02
To: Garner Mark; Dawson, Phil
Cc: David.Reed
Subject: Re: Virgin Trains East Coast (VTEC), new track access contract from December 2016 to December 2025 - industry consultation

Dear Mark and Phil,

Many thanks for consulting us on your application. I note First will be making a separate response on behalf of Hull Trains and East Coast Trains Limited.

As you will be aware the ITT for the new TPE franchise was published on 27th February setting out the DfT's requirements for the franchise which is expected to start on 1st April 2016. These requirements include increasing the capacity offered by TPE and working with Network Rail to realise the benefits of infrastructure investments during the course of the franchise.

We note that your application cites the conclusion of NR's 2020 capacity study which identified 8 LDHS paths during both the peak and off peak and examines the opportunity for expansions in TPE services north of York. While an increase in service frequency north of York to Newcastle and Middlesbrough is not required by the TPE ITT, previous assessments including the ITSS developed by the North of England Programme - Industry Planning Group - have reflected the opportunity to increase TPE services frequency on this part of the ECML. The DfT expects to secure a new TPE franchise by the end of this year at which time any plans above those required by the ITT will be known, in the meantime we welcome the opportunity to continue our engagement in NR's capacity analysis process.

Against this background we would question if the qualitative protection sought (e.g. journey times) are appropriate at this time, given the number of potential uses for capacity on the ECML. We would also question if this approach would be equitable given the quantum only nature of the majority of TAC's held by TOCs using the ECML.

Best wishes,
George

George Thomas
First TransPennine Express

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From: Garner Mark
To:

Cc: Regulatory Reform New TAC/SA Info <RegulatoryReformNewTAC/SAInfo
"EXTL: Hoptroff Mike" "David.Reed"

"Dawson, Phil"

Date: 06/03/2015 16:36

Subject: Virgin Trains East Coast (VTEC), new track access contract from December 2016 to December 2025 - industry consultation

Good afternoon,

Virgin Trains East Coast (VTEC), new track access contract (TAC) from December 2016 to December 2025 - industry consultation

Virgin Trains East Coast (VTEC) has submitted to the ORR an application under Section 17 of the Railways Act 1993 for approval of a new Track Access Contract from the Principle Change Date in 2016 to the Principle Change Date in December 2025. This replaces the previous Section 17 application made by East Coast on 28 April 2014 which is being formally withdrawn. This is in line with the process for consideration of access rights on the East Coast Main Line (ECML) as set out in the letters of 18 June 2014 and 6 February 2015 from Rob Plaskitt at ORR.

Please note that the company name of the train operator is still East Coast Main Line Company Limited, trading as Virgin Trains East Coast ("VTEC"). East Coast Main Line Company Limited is now owned by Inter City Railways Limited.

In line with the Industry Code of practice for industry consultations, VTEC has requested Network Rail to conduct this consultation on its behalf.

A copy of the proposed Track Access Contract and Application Form are attached and will shortly be available at <http://www.networkrail.co.uk/browseDirectory.aspx?dir=Track%20Access&root=>

A marked up version of the current Schedule 5 tables with the proposed amendments highlighted has not been possible as the service groups have been restructured. Instead a detailed explanation of how Schedule 5 has been put together is provided in the Application Form.

If you wish to respond to the proposed application, please do so in writing by close of play on Tuesday 7 April 2015 (the day after Easter Monday) to: Phil.Dawson and mark.garner

Please copy any responses to: David.Reed

Contact details for Phil:

Phil Dawson
External desk phone:
Mobile phone:
Email:
Regulation & Track Access Manager,
East Coast House, 25 Skeldergate, York, YO1 6DH

Cheers,
Mark

Mark Garner
Internal desk phone:
External desk phone:
Mobile phone:

mark.garner@networkrail.co.uk
Customer Manager, Network Operations,
Floor 4B, George Stephenson House,
Toft Green, York YO1 6JT

