

Route Prospectus

For the line between (Derby) Ambergate Jct. and Matlock (Derwent Valley Line)

The line between Ambergate Jct. and Matlock is one of the routes listed in the DfT Community Rail Development Strategy. This document sets out ideas for development of the line subsequent to the formal designation of the line as a Community Rail line in early 2006.

The keys measures of success will be

- establishing the contribution of Community Rail Development in achieving locally set objectives such as reducing road congestion and increasing accessibility;
- establishing the costs for the line and services;
- establishing the effectiveness of different methods for reducing the net financial loss of Community Rail lines by increasing revenue and reducing costs where practicable.

This prospectus has been discussed with the Derwent Valley Rural Transport Partnership (which presently consists of Derbyshire County Council, Amber Valley Borough Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, Peak District National Park Authority, East Midlands Development Agency, Derby City Council, Derbyshire Association of Local Councils, Trent Buses, Derwent Valley Trust, Peak Rail, Derwent Valley Mills Partnership, Wyvern Rail, Central Trains, Network Rail, Transport 2000, Friends of the Derwent Valley Line)

Designation of the line between Ambergate and Matlock as a 'Community Rail line' is needed to progress/encourage the following:

- Establish the real costs of operating the Matlock Branch and show how costs might be reduced on the line by changes to working practices, operation and TOC regulatory arrangements (including the Ticketing and Settlement Agreement)
- Evaluate cost effective methods of delivering improvements in terms of Derwent Valley line services without detriment to mainline services, looking at all aspects of operation including options for different types of rolling stock and value for money infrastructure enhancements where benefits can be identified.
- Open up opportunities of alternative fares structures and ticket types for local journeys
- Establish the potential for a higher frequency/lower cost service and final destination of services from the branch
- Continue to work with the TOC to develop the service, prioritise improvements to commuter services, improve connections to/from the line and evaluate the feasibility of re-introducing a limited through service to London
- Improved connections with Peak Rail at Matlock to be pursued

It is intended to build on the work already undertaken on the route including:

- Promotion of the line to raise its profile and increase patronage – this includes working with the local business and tourism community.
- Continued co-operation with Local Councils to increase integrated transport initiatives
- Development and implementation of Station Adoption opportunities

Designation is intended to be a permanent arrangement, but it can be reviewed periodically to assess whether the designation is still appropriate.

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