Central Bedfordshire Level Crossings

East West Rail (Marston Vale Line)
East Coast Mainline

Stuart Harrison. Transport Strategy

EWR Objectives
- Improve east west public transport connectivity;
- Increase economic growth, prosperity and employment within the South-East of England through improvements to east west rail links;
- Provide faster, more reliable and additional rail links from the west to Cambridge, Norwich and Ipswich;
- Improve journey times and reliability of inter-regional and commuter journeys;
- Increase capacity for inter-regional and commuter journeys;
- Maintain and enhance capacity for rail freight;
- Contribute to tackling climate change.

Project Progress
- The ‘Western Section’ is now a committed, funded scheme to re-introduce passenger and freight services between Bedford and Oxford, Milton Keynes and Aylesbury.
- Spring 2016 - Phase 1: Oxford to Bicester Town Delivered
- 2019 - Phase 2: Bicester to Bedford Delivered

Ongoing work streams of EWR
- Western section – working with consortium on delivery of route to Bedford
  - Bucks CC project lead
- Level crossing closure programme
  - NR propose closure of all crossings – private, public rights of way and road
- Central Section – route planning and feasibility
  - Project now taken on by Network Rail

Level crossing closures
- 22 level crossings in CB
  - 6 road crossings
  - 3 private crossings
  - 13 public rights of way crossings
- Extensive consultation work (ongoing – see timetable in newsletter)
- Transport and Works Act Order will cover all approvals
EWR Timetable

- April to June 2015: NR Public Information Events
- Sept 2015: Start of Formal consultation
- Feb 15 - May 16: EIA Development
- July 15 – March 16: Formal Consultation on TWAO
- June 2016: TWAO Submission
- March 17: TWAO Approval
- March 17 – March 19: Construction
- April 19: Operational

East Coast Mainline Timetable

- Oct 14 – Feb 15: Public Consultation
- Feb 15 – Sept 15: EIA Development
- Oct 2015: TWAO Submission
- March 16: TWAO Approval
- March 16 – March 19: Construction (dependent on other NR projects)
Many thanks for your time