

RAIL CPG NOTES 25.02.20

MSPs attending:

John Mason MSP
Sarah Boyack MSP
Pauline McNeill MSP
John Finnie MSP

Non-MSP Attendance:

Allison Cosgrove; Allan McLean; David Prescott; Matthew Spence; Cameron Little; Jim Grieve; Ian Budd; Dita Stanis-Traken; Lawrence Marshall; Iain MacDonald; Kevin Lindsay; Don Barclay; Stewart Leighton; Aaron McHale; Colin McDonald; Vic MacKinlay; Simon Walton; Scott Prentice; Ewan Tait; David Simpson; Paul McKay; Philip Mendelsohn; Bryan Deakin; Douglas McPherson; James Nash; Philomena Swierczek; Katie Callaghan; Doug Keith; Adam Mackie

Apologies from Jim Harkins.

Minutes from the previous meeting – 27 November 2019 – approved.

Avanti West Coast Presentation – Damian Henderson presented.

Presentation had a focus on the relationship between Network Rail and Avanti West Coast and the impact that this can have on journey times, there can be an extra 22 ½ minutes on some journey times. He then spoke a little bit about timetabling and the reasons behind dropping the 1610 train service.

The presentation then looked at passenger numbers using the rail network, with rail's market share for Glasgow-London up from 10% to 30%. There was also discussion around Motherwell and the ability to have that as a regional hub for future.

LNER Presentation – Sue Perez presented.

Talked about how rail is competing with air travel, rail now has 4 in 10 passengers.

The presentation then spoke about the Azuma trains, which means 'East' in Japanese and about the comfort they bring with having 7 cm more legroom in them along with the environmental benefits they bring. Sue then spoke about planned 2021 timetable changes.

Questions: whether the line to Inverness could be electrified and/or doubled.

Under Any Other Competent Business:

Possible topics for future meetings:

- Levenmouth line re-opening: question about value for money;
- Bonnybridge Station reinstatement campaign
- Williams Report.

Transport Focus spoke of their upcoming public meeting on 19 March.

Date of Next Meeting: To be confirmed.