

**1st May 2001**

## **RPP Scheme: Norwich to Cambridge**

The rail service between Norwich and Cambridge, is to have direct trains for the first time since 1985, following the award of a £9.2million grant by the Strategic Rail Authority under their Rail Passenger Partnership scheme.

A proposed starting date of October 2002 has been set for the new hourly service to be operated by Anglia Railways. It will also call at the intermediate stations of Wymondham, Thetford and Ely, and will be served by four new 'Turbostar' trains or equivalent. The £9.2million will be paid to Anglia over the remainder of their franchise, which terminates in April 2004. The SRA will also ensure that the new service is retained when the franchise is replaced.

Chief Executive of the SRA, Mike Grant, said:

"I am delighted to be able to confirm the largest grant to date under our Rail Passenger Partnership scheme. At long last passengers in East Anglia will be able to enjoy direct rail services between Norwich and Cambridge, which will also offer travellers an alternative to the busy A11.

"This RPP award follows closely on the heels of our recent announcement of April 2 for new services in and around the region. Taken together with Anglia's Crosslink scheme, and today's announcement, the Rail Passenger Partnership can be seen to have made a noticeable impact on rail services in East Anglia.

### **Notes to Editors**

1. Today's announcement brings to £28million the total that has been awarded under the SRA's Rail Passenger Partnership scheme. The sum has been spread across a total of 19 schemes.
2. Services are also operated between Norwich and Ely by Central Trains, and between Ely and Cambridge by Central Trains and WAGN.

For further details contact the Department for Transport Rail  
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