

2nd July 2004

£16 million Remodelling of Filton Junction Completed

The SRA today announced that work has been completed on a major programme of improvements to Filton Junction, a key part of the national mainline network linking Bristol with Cardiff and the Midlands, the North, and Wales, with South-West England.

The project, specified by the SRA and delivered by Network Rail has been jointly funded, with the SRA providing £13 million and Network Rail providing £3 million. The work has involved a remodelling of Filton Junction to allow parallel train movements between the Bristol Temple Meads and Cardiff directions, as well as a new third running line and platform face at the increasingly busy station at Filton Abbey Wood. The improvements have been completed on time and to budget through close co-operation between the SRA, Network Rail, Wessex Trains, Virgin Trains and other operators.

The key benefits that can now be realised are:

Reduced journey time on certain services;

Improved safety as the main stretch of bi-directional line is removed;

Improved performance through Filton Junction: through trains will no longer be required to wait for a Cardiff bound train stopping at Filton Abbey Wood to clear the junction;

Improved operational flexibility through Filton Junction with a 10-15% increase in capacity.

SRA Chairman, Richard Bowker said:

"The completion of work at Filton Junction - on time and on budget - will deliver immediate benefits for passengers and freight customers. This project and others within the SRA's portfolio, demonstrate how relatively modest, targeted investment can deliver a step change in capacity and performance."

Note to Editors

1. The capacity of Filton Junction has been improved by 10-15% as northbound trains stopping at Filton Abbey Wood will not block the junction. Through trains to Cardiff will also avoid blocking the junction. This will allow much greater timetabling flexibility through the junction. It will be possible, for example, for more trains to stop at Filton Abbey Wood to serve the growing demand there due to expanding MoD offices and other businesses.

