

Friends of Suburban Bristol Railways (FOSBR)



Annual General Meeting Friday 20 Jan 2017

7.15pm to 9.15pm, Alma Church Hall, 29 Alma Rd, BS8 2ES

Agenda

1. Rob Dixon– Notes from Chair
2. Speakers:
 - a) Mark Bradshaw, Cabinet Member for Transport
 - b) Keith Walton, Severnside Community Rail Partnership
 - c) Bernard Kennedy, ASLEF
3. Questions to speakers

BREAK

4. Regional updates and welcome to guests and new members
5. Panel discussion: what should FOSBR's campaign priorities be?
6. Formal business:
 - a) Treasurer's report – Tony Lloyd
 - b) Elections for: Chair, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer and Campaigns Organiser
7. Motions for FOSBR AGM.

MOTIONS

1. Fair Investment in the West of England

Preamble

FOSBR wants to see fair investment in public transport for the West of England. While we welcome the ambition of the local authorities' joint transport study, we are concerned that government has ignored this region's transport needs for too long. East Bristol junction is unfunded and threatens MetroWest; electrification has been delayed or possibly cancelled. This seems short-sighted. The City Region of Bath and Bristol is the only area outside London that is a net contributor to the Treasury. MetroWest is vital and welcome but is insufficient. We need a comparable service to the other core cities where some rail services are every 15-20 minutes, and transport systems (often including trams) are integrated. We can only look on with envy.

FOSBR AGM Resolves: *FOSBR calls on our MPs, mayors, and local councillors in the immediate term to press the government to obtain a date for the electrification of Bristol Temple Meads and in the interim to fund and deliver East Bristol Junction and the Temple Meads Spatial Plan. In the longer term, we also urge MPs to press the government to fund the Joint Spatial Plan, with local rail as a backbone for the region, including the Henbury Loop and five new stations (Horfield, St Anne's, Saltford, Ashton Gate and Charfield) and to include our further FOSBR proposals for five new stations to make up MetroWest Phase 3 (Coalpit Heath, Chittening, Uphill/Locking, Corsham, and Long Ashton), as well as replacing the footbridge at Pilning.*

We invite our representatives to meet with the Department for Transport and report back within the next six months.

2. Fare rises on the Severn Beach Line (proposed by WELEP Friday 13 Jan 2017)

Preamble

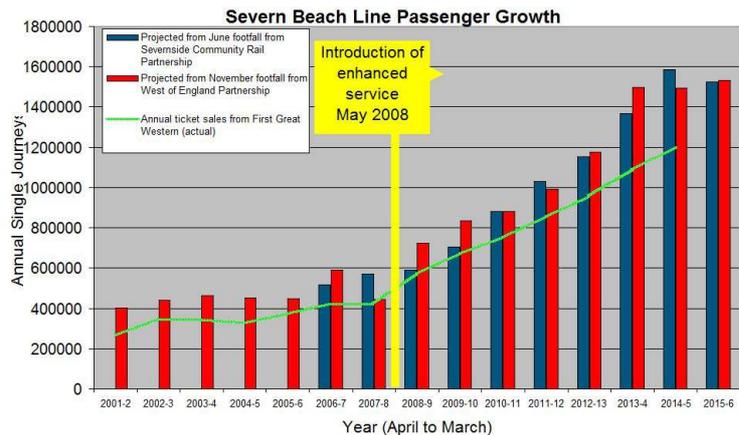
FOSBR notes the proposals for fare rises on the Severn Beach Line: 33% or 50% for both zonal single and return fares; 56% and 58% for monthly and annual season tickets; that weekly tickets no longer offer any saving. Whilst we recognise that prices have been unchanged since 2008, these are steep rises that will most affect those on lower incomes who are more likely to buy daily or weekly tickets.

By raising fares government, GWR and the local authorities risk reducing passenger numbers and the attractiveness of the line. The West of England authorities should celebrate the fact that Severn Beach Line fares are low and promote social equality and decreased road congestion.

Proposal to increase Severn Beach Line Fares						
Journey		Current Fare		Proposed Fare		
		All Day	Equivalent Price per day*	All Day	Change	Equivalent Price per day*
		(£)	(£)	(£)	(£ / %)	(£)
Single	short hop	-	-	2.00	0 / 0%	-
	1 Zone	1.50	-	2.00	0.50 / 33%	-
	2 Zone	2.00	-	3.00	1.00 / 50%	-
Return	1 Zone	2.00	-	3.00	1.00 / 50%	-
	2 Zone	3.00	-	4.00	1.00 / 33%	-
7 day season	1 Zone	6.00	1.20	10.00	4.00 / 67%	2.00
	2 Zone	9.00	1.80	15.00	6.00 / 67%	3.00
Monthly season	1 Zone	23.10	1.15	36.00	12.90 / 56%	1.80
	2 Zone	34.60	1.73	48.00	13.40 / 39%	2.40
Annual Season	1 Zone	240.00	1.00	380.00	140.00 / 58%	1.58
	2 Zone	360.00	1.50	500.00	140.00 / 39%	2.08

Great Western Railway and the local authorities claim that these fare increases will help pay for as yet unnamed rail improvements. They are proposed to take effect at the same time as new rolling stock is introduced, which implies a service improvement linked to fare rises.

FOSBR AGM Resolves: FOSBR urges GWR to delay any fare increases until the proposed smartcard scheme is introduced in Sept 2017, as FOSBR anticipates that the income will rise considerably due to improved fare collection. Should the proposed fare increases occur FOSBR wants to see real improvements (not existing planned changes) that show progress towards MetroWest. As a minimum we would expect improvements to the current lamentable service to St Andrews Road and/or Severn Beach (to enable better commuting to industrial sites), and the gap in the timetable between the 20.03 and 21.37 departures from Avonmouth to Bristol to be filled.



3. Support for We Own It and Let Bristol Breathe

a) FOSBR supports the valuable work We Own It does to alert the public to the issue of public ownership, as the most efficient use of government funds and organisation.

b) FOSBR supports the aims of Let Bristol Breathe, by committing to campaigning for rail and for electrification of regional and local rail lines.

FOSBR AGM resolves: FOSBR to give a donation of £50 to both We Own It and Let Bristol Breathe