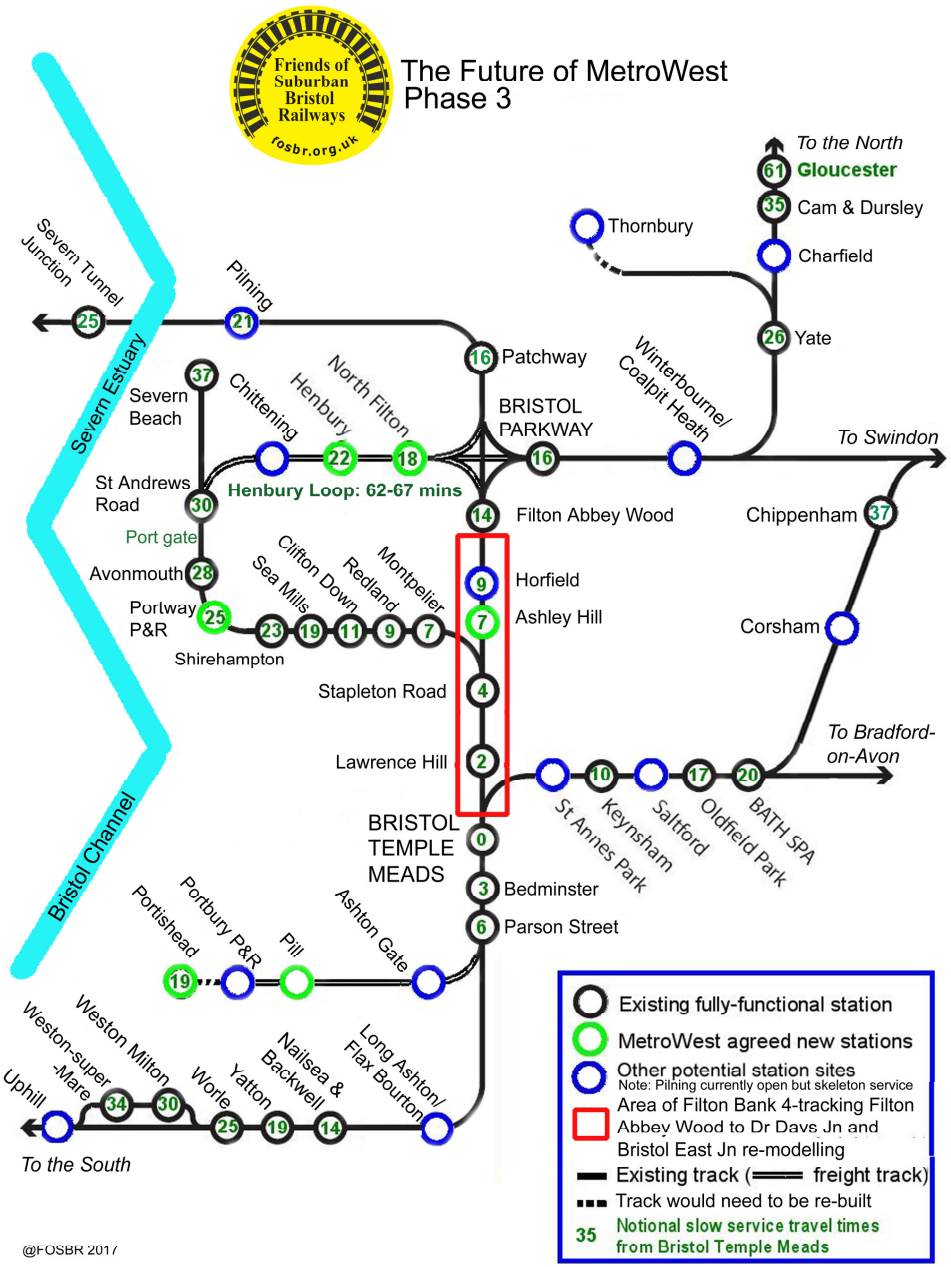
FOSBR Rail Manifesto 2017

FOSBR calls on the West of England Combined Authority, our MPs and councillors to secure funding for the following projects for Network Rail to deliver within Control Period 6 (2019-2024):

- four-tracking of Filton Bank and remodelling of Bristol East Junction;
- cross-regional plan for Park and Ride, prioritising Portway P&R;
- MetroWest Phase 1 to Portishead via Pill and a half-hour service from Avonmouth to Bath, as these are long overdue and urgently needed;
- MetroWest Phase 2 to Henbury, Yate and Gloucester via Ashley Hill;
- electrification to Bristol Temple Meads via Filton and Bath;
- Temple Meads Spatial Plan to include Station Street as a minimum;
- redeveloping and regenerating suburban stations for best use of land.

We also press WECA and the constituent local authorities to make sure the following is included in the Great Western Franchise 2020—2027/2030:

- maximising use of the existing local rail network by optimising public access to all local stations (disabled access, local signposting and cycle storage at stations and on trains, rail-bus interchange, shelter);
- multi-modal smart ticketing, with guards for safety on all trains;
- improve the timetable to complete a 30 minute service to currently ill-served local stations such as Parson St, Bedminster and Patchway;
- ensuring that the Phase 1 hourly service to Severn Beach is reliable;
- increasing service frequency to 20 or 15 minutes according to passenger demand, by providing passing loops such as at Sea Mills;
- replace the footbridge at Pilning to permit a meaningful commuter service, starting with a trial daily commuter service to build the business case for a Park and Ride serving the M49.

In the longer term, we also urge WECA to make sure the following are included in the Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) and Joint Transport Study, and that these elements are funded by the 30-year devolution deal as a priority:

- JSP stations Horfield, St Anne's, Saltford, Ashton Gate & Charfield;
- Completion of Henbury Loop and double-tracking Severn Beach Line;
- Adding FOSBR MetroWest Phase 3 proposals for five further stations at Coalpit Heath, Chittening, Uphill/Locking, Corsham & Long Ashton;
- electrification of local lines using hybrid or battery trains;
- extending the Tytherington freight line to Thornbury.