

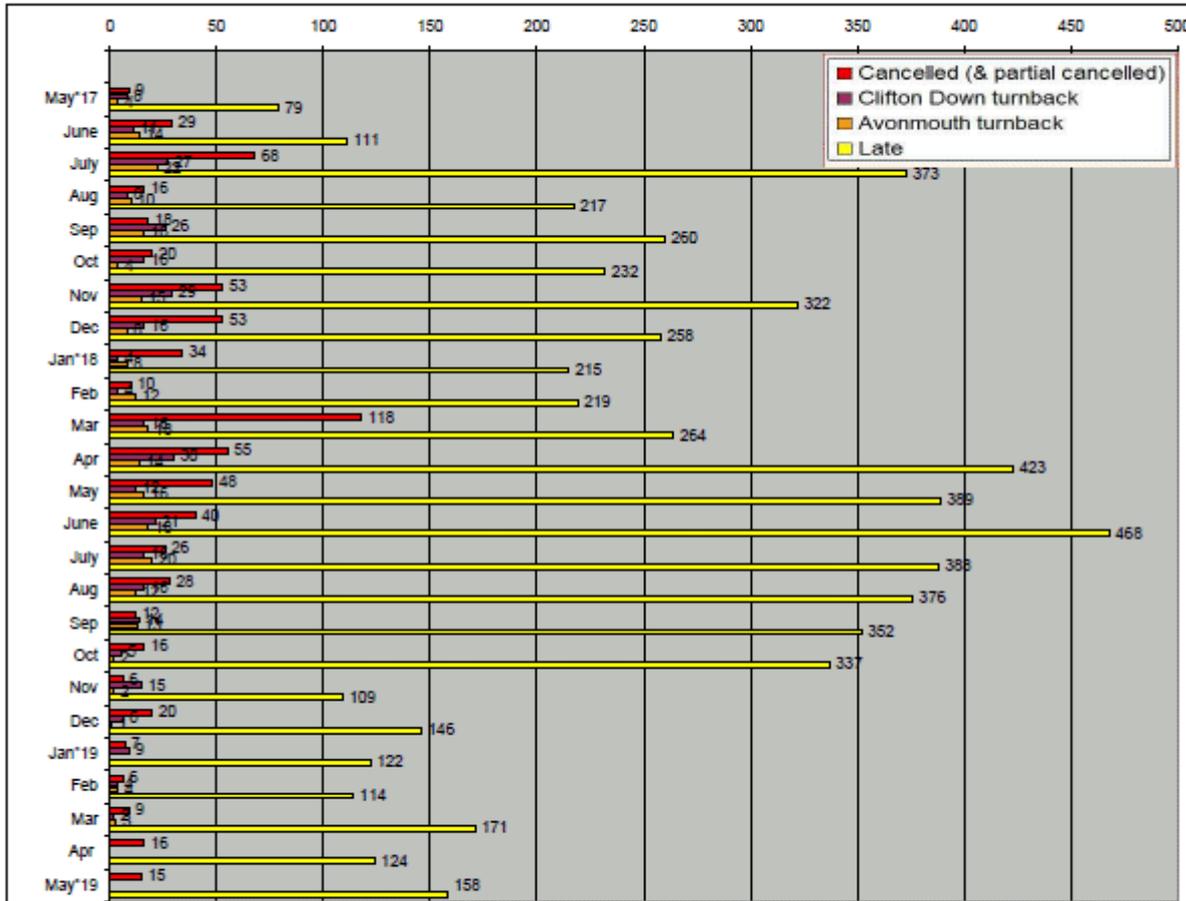
# Friends of Suburban Bristol Railways (FOSBR)



Statement to S Glos Cabinet, Monday 15 July 2019

**1. Filton Bank and the green light for MetroWest Phase 1A:** FOSBR notes that since the four tracks on Filton Bank were delivered in November 2018 that the reliability of services on the Severn Beach Line has been largely restored. We are now very keen to see the speedy implementation of MetroWest Phase 1A (half-hour services to Avonmouth, hourly to Severn Beach) and have recently launched a petition to this effect. We call on S Glos to urge WECA to conclude negotiations and ensure that the half-hour service is in the May 2020 timetable.

**Number of train services cancelled, turnback or late, by calendar month on Severn Beach Line: May 2017 - May 2019**



"Late" = train service 5 or more minutes late on arrival at final destination

"Cancelled" = cancelled throughout, "Cancelled partial" = skipped scheduled stops at intermediate stations

"Turnback cancel" = turned back prior to (or started after) scheduled stations

From baseline 316 Severn Beach Line services per week\*, 5\*50 weekdays, 48 on Saturdays, 20 on Sundays\*\*

\*Fewer during bank holidays and Filton Bank 4-tracking blockades inc 13/14 Oct, 27 Oct-18 Nov, 24/25 Nov, 1/2 Dec

\*\*Summer Sunday service increases from 20 to 26

Compiled for FOSBR by TM, collated by CJD

**2. MetroWest Phase 2** – We welcome the WECA funding decision passed on Friday 14 April of £3.519m of the remaining £11.036 shortfall, to proceed to the Full Business Case (GRIP 3) and would urge that MetroWest Phase 2 is expedited in consultation with YTL and S Glos, taking into consideration the likelihood of an Arena at Filton and future-proofing for the full Henbury Loop. We urge S Glos to commit funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy.

**3. Infrastructure** – FOSBR urges S Glos to continue to urge DfT to approve funding for Bristol East Junction and to propose further infrastructure schemes to enter the Rail Enhancements Delivery Pipeline – Severn Beach Line selective double-tracking, the full Henbury Loop, and the remodelling of Westerleigh Junction to facilitate the delivery of the Thornbury Line.

**4. Clean Air Plan** – In light of the 26,000 cars per day travelling into Bristol from S Glos (cited from the 2011 census in our response to the JLT4 consultation), FOSBR regard the proposed remodelling of Hambrook Junction cynical in the extreme. FOSBR support the suggestion by James Freeman of FirstBus to modify the proposed remodelling of Hambrook Junction by retaining the forward bus lane. FOSBR supports FirstBus' suggestion to remove the right hand turn to the north and to instead use this as a third lane going forwards towards the M32. Please do not remove the forward bus lane, as this will only disincentivise bus travel and make air pollution in Bristol worse!



**5. FOSBR Rail Plan** – FOSBR continue to commend our Rail Plan 2018 for the whole West of England region and urge S Glos to commend this to the JSP inspectors as this will mitigate against all the contested SDLs (not just Charfield), provided the train stations are in place before any houses are built.

## FOSBR Rail Plan 2018 – car-free travel from your door



### A reliable half-hour train service:

- WECA to have rail powers and operational oversight;
- **Longer** trains with more seats and room for cycles;
- Rail-bus interchanges at Filton Abbey Wood for Southmead Hospital and Nailsea & Backwell for Bristol Airport, accurate real-time bus information at stations;
- Multi-modal **smart ticketing**, with guards on all trains;
- Delivery of MetroWest Phase 1A **half-hour train service between Avonmouth and Bath**, hourly to Severn Beach;
- 30 min service for Patchway, Parson St and Bedminster;
- Future 15 or 20 minute frequency.

### Robust infrastructure to unlock capacity:

- Completion of Filton Bank four-tracking;
- Bristol East and Westerleigh Junction remodelling;
- Replace footbridge at Pilning for Severnside commuters;
- Emission-free trains: electrification to Bristol Temple Meads and battery or hydrogen-fuelled local trains;
- Extra platforms and bus hub at Temple Meads;
- Selective double-tracking of Severn Beach Line.

### Reopening stations across the network:

- Deliver Portishead line with an initial hourly service with planning for half-hour service;
- Henbury Spur extension to Henbury Loop;
- Welcoming WECA's proposals for Horfield (at Constable Rd), St Anne's, Saltford, Ashton Gate & Charfield;
- Consideration of further stations at Coalpit Heath, Chittening, Uphill/Locking, Corsham & Long Ashton;
- Exploring an extension of Tytherington line to Thornbury.