The Development Consent Order (DCO) process



The proposed new railway between Bedford and Cambridge has been designated as a project of national significance. This means East West Railway Company (EWR Co) apply to the Secretary of State for Transport for a Development Consent Order (DCO) in accordance with the Planning Act 2008 to get approval to build and operate the new railway. The DCO process is governed by the Planning Act 2008 and has six stages:

Take part

Check our website for updates at **eastwestrail.co.uk**You can also find updates on the project's status at
national-infrastructure-consenting.
planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Once our application is submitted, the **Planning Inspectorate** has 28 days to review the application and decide whether to proceed to the next stage. They will consider whether all relevant documents have been submitted and whether the pre-application consultation has been adequate.

Take part

Interested Parties can make written submissions and request to speak at public hearings.

The **Examining Authority** gathers and reviews evidence and views, including supporting evidence provided by EWR and representations and written submissions made by **Interested Parties**.

There is a six-week period during which anyone can challenge the way the decision has been made. This process is known as **Judicial Review**.





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Before we submit our application, we're required to carry out a **statutory consultation** on the project. We are planning to hold two consultations to further develop our plans. The **non-statutory consultation** is being held in **2024** and the statutory consultation is proposed for **2025**.

After the statutory consultation, we'll produce a **Consultation Report**, which will explain how feedback has been considered in the design of the project. We will then submit this report alongside the other relevant documentation required to support our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate. We plan to submit our DCO application at the earliest opportunity following the statutory consultation.

Take part

Respond to the consultations. Register at **eastwestrail.co.uk** for newsletter updates.

Once our application has been accepted, we must publicise this and explain how people can register to become **Interested Parties**. Interested Parties will be kept informed of progress and opportunities to make representations and speak at public hearings.

The **Examining Authority** will hold a **Preliminary Meeting** to discuss how and when the application will be examined.

Take part

You can register to become an Interested Party and also sign up to get updates about the project on the PINS website. Signing up to get updates does not mean you have registered to have your say and does not mean you are an interested party.

The **Examining Authority** makes a recommendation to the **Secretary of State** on whether or not to grant development consent. This must be done within three months from the end of the examination period.

The Secretary of State then has three months to make a decision (this can be extended).

Take part

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status at **national-infrastructure-consenting.**planninginspectorate.gov.uk