

June 2018

From: Farha Sheikh

Sent: 03 November 2015 13:51

To: *[Name Redacted – DfT official below Senior Civil Servant Grade];
[DfT Rail Group – Thames Link Programme Team – Internal group email address redacted]*

Cc: *[DfT Rail Group – Digital Services – Internal group email address redacted]*

Subject: RE: Thameslink reaches an important milestone....

[Name Redacted – DfT official below Senior Civil Servant Grade]

Great news (and that Thameslink is now on a par with Cambrian)!

Would it be possible for members of my team to join any future visits? We'd really welcome the opportunity to see the technology in action.

Just to let you know – the national NR ERTMS team have made very clear to me on several occasions that ETCS / ATO on Thameslink is not being considered as part of the lesson learning / input for wider ETCS rollout across their network (primarily as a consequence of Thameslink being almost a proprietary implementation). This is a troubling perspective from NR, and one we need to try and unpick and overcome. I've pushed from my side that there needs to be far more technical integration between Thameslink and the national ERTMS programme (aka "digital railways"). It would be helpful if your team could give a similar message to your NR counterparts.

Happy to discuss



Ms Farha Sheikh

Rail Digital Services, Infrastructure Safety and Security

[Redacted - Desk location – personal details]

Great Minster House

33 Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 4DR

[Redacted internal non-public facing phone number]

Leading a world-class railway that creates opportunity for people and businesses.

From: *[Name of Franchise Interface Manager – Thames Link Programme - Redacted below Senior Civil Servant Grade]*

Sent: 03 November 2015 09:08

To: *[DfT Rail Group – Internal group email address redacted. Then called Rail Executive]*

Cc: *[DfT Rail Group – Thames Link Programme Team – Internal group email address redacted]*

Subject: Thameslink reaches an important milestone....

All,

I thought I would share with you all a milestone that was reached on Thameslink that is important, not just for the Programme itself but for the UK rail industry more widely:

On Sunday, I was on-board a specially modified class 313 train to witness the **European Train Control System** (in-cab signalling) operating successfully on the main line railway, specifically, through the Thameslink core, from Elephant and Castle, through to St Pancras. In fact, the milestone was achieved the previous weekend but the extra week of over-night testing gave Network Rail the assurance it needed to demonstrate the technology to their erstwhile sponsors.

And it worked!.... the driver tried hard to speed through a red signal (we had a clear track, under possession) but the system successfully intervened and stopped the train before it passed the danger signal. There were various other tests which I am told were successful but I am not technical enough to be able to describe them.

The c313 was modified – using the same kit as will be on board the new Siemens class 700 trains - to prove the system in advance of testing with the new trains that will then operate via ETCS in passenger service from 2018.

It is difficult to over-estimate the amount of work that led to this successful test run, from the years of concept proving on the Cambrian Line to the development of a sophisticated laboratory/simulator to work through most of the issues before touching the actual railway and then to replicating the Thameslink core on a stretch of the Hertford Loop to test on a live but relatively quiet railway.

The next phase of ETCS testing will see the new, class 700 trains being put through their paces on the Hertford Loop (off the East Coast Main Line) from February and then in the Thameslink core from July next year. However, even more exciting for the Programme and the more technically minded among you, the c700 testing will incorporate **Automatic Train Operation**. ETCS and ATO systems have both been used separately on various railways around the world for some time however, Thameslink will (so NR tell me) be the first time the two systems have been used together..... a world first for Thameslink!

It's not just Thameslink that is benefitting - the ETCS/ATO test programme is providing NR with lots of valuable lessons that it is taking through to the national ETCS programme and other major programmes such as Crossrail. Chief amongst these lessons is the value added from having the ability to test concepts in a simulator before hitting the tracks – dramatically cutting down the track possession time needed and speeding the process of proving options.

If you would like to know more about the Thameslink programme, please feel free to drop me or my colleagues on the programme a line.

Regards,

[Name Redacted – DfT official below Senior Civil Servant Grade]



[Name Redacted – DfT official below Senior Civil Servant Grade]

Franchise Interface Manager, Thameslink Programme

[Redacted - Desk location – personal details], Great Minster House

33 Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 4DR

[Redacted internal non-public facing phone number]

Leading a world-class railway that creates opportunity for people and businesses.

From: Matthew Lodge *[Context: A Director in DfT Rail Group]*

Sent: 19 October 2015 15:23

To: *[DfT Rail Group – Thames Link Programme Team – Internal group email address redacted]*

Cc: *[Redacted name of DfT Rail Group official – Former DfT employee];* Farha Sheikh *[Non-public facing email address redacted]*

Subject: Fw: ETCS testing in core

All

To be aware of the successful completion of this weekends ETCS tests within the Thameslink core

[Name of DfT official - Thameslink Programme - Redacted below Senior Civil Servant Grade]
- something for this week's weekly update?

Farha - to be aware

[Redacted name of DfT Rail Group official – Former DfT employee]; - for interest

Thanks

M

From: Blanchflower Simon *[Non-public facing email address redacted]*

Sent: Sunday, 18 October 2015 13:29
To: Matthew Lodge; *[Redacted name of DfT Rail Group official – Former DfT employee];*
[Redacted name of DfT Rail Group official – Former DfT employee]
Subject: Fwd: ETCS testing in core

FYI - very exciting that we have achieved what we set out to do this weekend.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: *[Redacted name of DfT Rail Group official – Former DfT employee];*
Date: 18 October 2015 12:06:07 BST
To: Blanchflower Simon *[Non-public facing email address redacted];*
[Name of Network Rail official - Redacted below Senior Civil Servant Grade equivalent];
[Name of Network Rail official Thameslink- Redacted below Senior Civil Servant Grade equivalent]; and [Name of Network Rail official Thameslink sponsor - Redacted below Senior Civil Servant Grade equivalent] -
Subject: ETCS testing in core

Good news

We have successfully run from kentish town to elephant transitioning into L2 at KT and back out at Elephant

Northbound also ran through in L2 and transitioned out fine but required manual transition in due to incorrect balise install

One or two issues also identified with balise and gsm- frequency coverage but overall these tests have been successful and I'm really pleased

Regards

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