

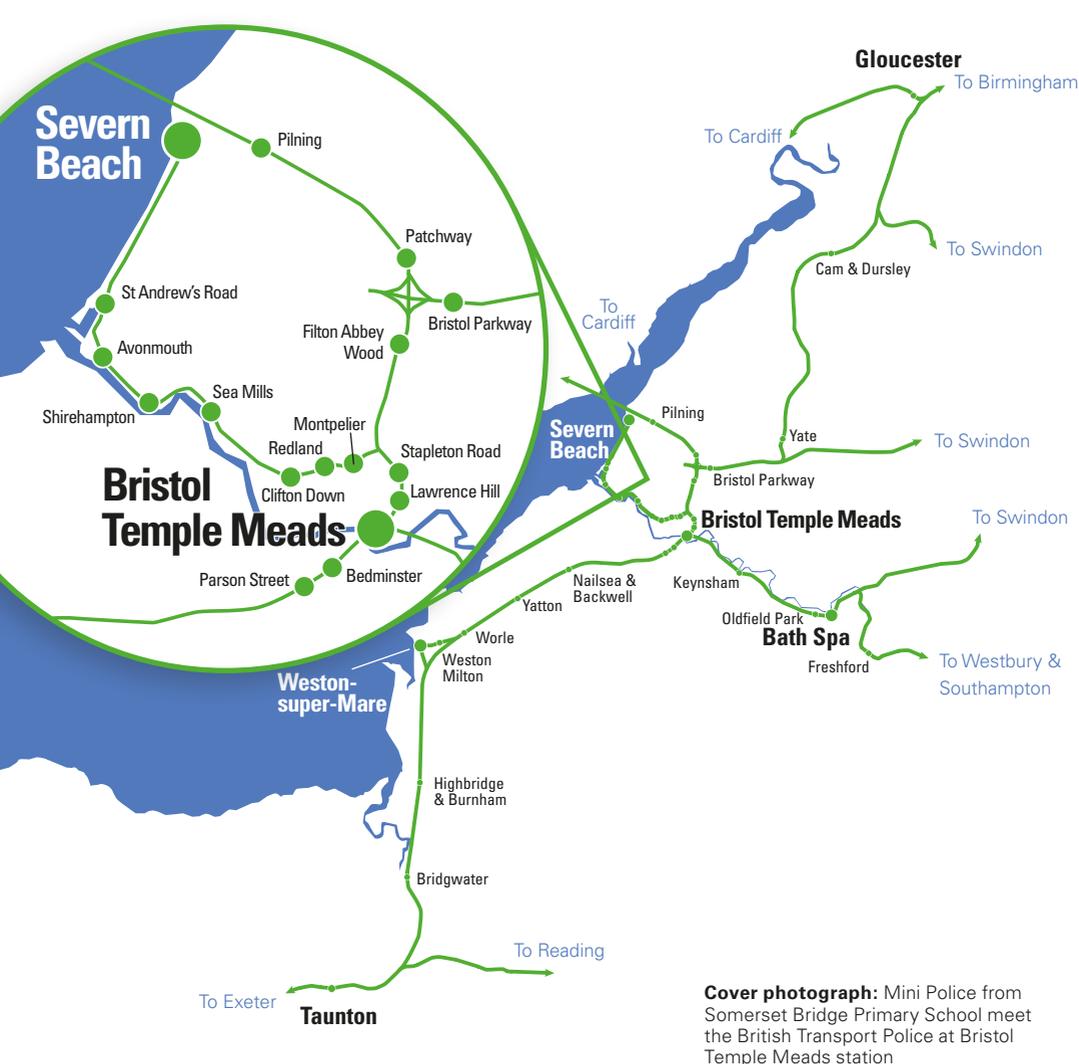
SEVERNSIDE
Community Rail Partnership
c.i.c



PROGRESS REPORT

Published February 2020

Linking local communities with the rail industry



Welcome to the Severnside Community Rail Partnership 2020 Progress Report

The Severnside Community Rail Partnership is the link between local communities and the rail industry. We cover the network of routes radiating from Bristol, bounded by Gloucester, Bath/Freshford, Weston-super-Mare, Taunton, and the Severn Estuary; this includes the branch line to Severn Beach.

We work with local communities and a range of partners to identify and implement measures to ensure that access to local stations is easy and that stations are safe and welcoming.

In recent years we have sponsored, organised and arranged funding packages for community-based improvements at over half the local stations. These include a complete rebuild of Severn Beach station – the first and, so far the only, local station in the West of England to have been completely rebuilt. We recently developed and implemented, with the local community, a plan and funding package for a comprehensive improvement of Avonmouth station, transforming a derelict eyesore, and run down environment with new facilities and a community garden – which will play a part presenting a more attractive public transport entrance to the Enterprise Area. Both these major schemes were delivered on time and below budget. Other local stations have been transformed, considerably assisted – on a voluntary basis – by young people and local communities. Schools display their artwork on the platforms and community groups tend the gardens, many of which have received “outstanding” in the RHS It’s Your Neighbourhood Awards.

In June 2019 we were among the first Community Rail Partnerships to receive formal Accreditation from the Department for Transport under their new policy. Accreditation provides assurance to others, including potential funders and partners, that the CRP operates to high standards of governance and financial propriety; adopts a collaborative approach; is worthy of trust by

others; is a suitable entity for receiving public funds; and is a good representative of the local community.

Providing a voice for the community continues to be a core function of Community Rail. Hosting passenger forums, attending ‘Friends of...’ rail user group and wider community meetings is an essential means of providing our rail industry partners with local insight to assist with shaping the rail service and facilities to best fit the needs of our communities.

As well as station-based schemes, our emphasis is also on improving social inclusivity and access to the local railway, promoting sustainable healthy travel and social and economic development. The Partnership facilitates visits and events for communities who might not be familiar or feel confident with using the rail service. Further examples of our work under these headings are described in this Report.

The Partnership is a Community Interest Company. The running costs of the Partnership, including the post of Partnership Manager, receive significant funding by way of grants from Great Western Railway, Cross Country Trains and local authorities. Without their support and encouragement, we could not operate and deliver the considerable benefits which are being achieved. Under recent Great Western and Cross Country Franchise arrangements, there has been a much welcomed increase in funding for Community Rail projects; this is supplemented by bids for specific grants from local authority and other sources.

I am very grateful for the strong support from Heather Cullimore, the Partnership’s Manager, and her small team, around one hundred volunteers and from Board Members - all of whom are essential to delivering our work.

Keith Walton, Chairman

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Some of the Partnership's Achievements During 2019

Involving Young People

Engaging schools in their local railway remains a key part of the Partnership's activity. Rail Familiarisation gives year six primary school pupils confidence to travel by rail independently as they transition to secondary education. We encourage schools to combine rail familiarisation experience with planned trips to Bath, Weston-super-Mare beach and City Farms. Some schools enjoyed a day of joined up sustainable transport, including the train, bus and the Bristol Ferry.

We encourage appropriate Secondary Schools to have rail representative groups. This ensures we hear the voice of young people on travel for education, reaching employment opportunities and leisure experiences.

New opportunities for connecting schools with their local railway included Victoria Park Primary School pupils becoming station announcers for a day, having recorded new safety messages for Bristol Temple Meads, Bath Spa and Weston-super-Mare stations. The experience included voice-coaching from BBC Radio Bristol presenter Emma Britton and was featured on local BBC radio and television.

Safety and communication were key themes during a visit from Somerset Bridge Primary School 'Mini Police', who met British Transport Police at Temple Meads as part of Rail Week 2019.

Meanwhile, West Country Crimestoppers used a contribution from the GWR Customers and Communities Improvement (CCIF) Fund to challenge Sedgemoor schools on "What Would You Do?" – an inspirational programme using drama, song and dance to help children, parents and carers make informed decisions around challenging issues such as knife crime, controlling behaviour and county lines drug operations. A series of workshops, supported by Severnside CRP, were recorded to create a film with a rail travel theme.

Creating Safer and More Welcoming Stations

A new mural under the canopy at Avonmouth station, funded by A Forgotten Landscape Heritage Lottery project, features the birds of the Lower Severn Vale, promoting visits to the area for wildlife and nature spotting. At Sea Mills station a 'floor-mural', commemorates the centenary of the 'Addison Oak', a tree planted in 1919 by Dr Christopher Addison MP to mark the first Bristol's public housing scheme to provide "Homes Fit for Heroes" returning from the First World War.

Pupils of Cotham Gardens Primary school gave a hand in creating a new mural for Redland station by providing vibrant designs featuring their favourite places around the station and their favourite modes of sustainable travel - including cycling and skateboarding. The Redland mural is one of three permanent pieces of artwork the Partnership delivered as part of an ongoing programme to make stations feel safer and more welcoming.



Connecting Communities with On Train Events

Hosting events on trains has proved to be an effective means of reaching out to those who might not otherwise consider using the rail service. 'Games on the Train' delivered in collaboration with the LinkAge Network continues to grow in popularity and is just one example of how the railway can play a role in supporting those vulnerable to loneliness and social isolation.



A more flamboyant version of Games on the Train highlighted our socially inclusive railway and took place during Pride celebrations. Drag Queen Bingo on the Train saw a carriage with party atmosphere like no other! The entertainment included singing, dancing and several games of bingo hosted by Bristol's highly acclaimed ladies Carmen Monoxide and Dominique Fleek. The show brought rapturous applause from the live audience on the Severn Beach train, plus wide reaching, positive social media coverage and a radio feature.

Healthy Walks from the Railway

For those preferring something a little more tranquil, Healthy Walks from the Railway invites participants to join qualified walk leaders for a journey by rail from Bristol Temple Meads to Severn Beach, Yatton or Bradford-on-Avon stations for a short scenic Sunday walk.

Our walk leaders have also piloted a series of accessible walks from these stations. This project, supported by the GWR CCIF, directed by Dr Miriam Ricci, Senior Researcher at UWE, documents the experience of participants with a range of disabilities. We look forward to the findings of Dr Ricci's research and publicising accessible walks from the railway during 2020.



Promoting Days out from Local Stations

South Gloucestershire Council has used a GWR CCIF grant to commission leaflets promoting Days out by Train from their local stations, highlighting free and lower cost attractions suitable for family visits and more affordable days out and are available to download [here](#). Plans are in hand to extend the series of leaflets to stations along other routes radiating from Bristol.

Celebrating A 90 Year Milestone

February 2019 marked 90 years of passenger services from Oldfield Park station. The local community came together to celebrate the station's past, present and look to future with a special event that included a school art competition and entertainment from the Bath Spa University Choir. The highly acclaimed 'On Board' group of station volunteers planted a special 90 year floral display – which contributed to the station retaining 'Outstanding' status in the Royal Horticultural Society's It's Your Neighbourhood Awards. Commemorative cakes were served.



Denise James

The Partnership truly values the contribution of volunteers across the network who generously give their time to support their local stations. We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Denise James, lead volunteer at Keynsham station and a key member of South West in Bloom. Denise put tremendous energy and enthusiasm into enhancing Keynsham station while encouraging other station groups to participate in the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' awards. She will be a much-missed member of the community rail family.



Avonmouth Station Food Growing Project

GWR's CCIF fund has facilitated several schemes which reach into the heart of the communities served by the local railway.



The 'Secret Garden' Community Food Growing project at Avonmouth station, developed in collaboration with Incredible Edible Bristol, produces fresh food for the Community Centre's weekly Soup Club and Lunch Club, and a donation to the North Bristol Foodbank.

The garden provides both a food growing and community learning space, tucked away in a compound space on the recently improved platform 1.



The project has brought volunteers from Network Rail and the GWR Operations Apprentices scheme, together, with service users of the Community Payback Scheme, to build and tend planters and to harvest and distribute produce.



Outreach sessions allow those involved to engage first-hand with members of the local community and grow an understanding of how living in poverty and with limited access to fresh food impacts overall health and wellbeing.

The produce of the garden is greatly appreciated; this was evident when the project featured on both local and national BBC television.



20 Years of The Friends of Yatton Station



Volunteer 'station adopters' are the backbone of community rail, coming together in their spare time to care for their local stations. This typically includes tending station gardens and planters, undertaking litter picks, creating heritage displays and suggesting improvements which might benefit passengers and the wider community.

The Friends of Yatton station have been doing all of this to great effect for an incredible twenty years.



The original station garden was established in the days of the old Great Western Railway and, during the 1930s, was successful in competitions for best kept station gardens. Local railwaymen were said to be fiercely proud of the garden and worked hard to keep it looking spick and span. In 1938 the Yatton station garden won a monetary prize and it was spent on young Irish Yews, which are still part of the landscape today. In those days GWR even had its own nursery to supply plants for the station gardens.

Twenty years ago the Irish Yew trees were just about visible among the holm oak and ash that had grown up after the garden was no longer maintained.

Faith Moulin thought she would look into restoring the 'lost garden of Yatton' as a Millennium project. After trees had been removed, paths were discovered and re-gravelled, large crystalline stones edging borders were found. Various plants popped up after the ground was cleared, and many others were introduced.



The garden evolved into the wildlife-friendly, low-maintenance area that can be seen today - full of plants mainly brought in by volunteers. A group of around ten regular members meet at the station each Monday, linking with the Strawberry Line Cafe and the new GWR station team and the Severnside Community Rail Partnership to ensure the station is kept litter-free and florally-rich. New members are always given a warm welcome and the group travel together annually for a summer day trip to visit another station garden.



The special milestone was marked by a garden party held on a Saturday afternoon during June 2019 which included celebratory cake, the planting of an anniversary rose and special presentation by GWR Communities Manager Emma Morris to founder members Faith Moulin, Tony Moulin and Hilary Beck.

Passenger Statistics

Passengers using West of England area local stations on weekdays

Station	2007	2016	2017
Yate	694	1446	1400
Patchway	139	344	410
Filton Abbey Wood	1958	4764	4707
Bedminster	156	250	356
Parson Street	108	528	550
Nailsea and Backwell	1315	2015	1970
Yatton	1192	1494	1797
Worle	841	1650	1677
Weston Milton	261	407	*407
Weston-s-Mare	2279	2828	3066
Keynsham	839	1679	1654
Oldfield Park	841	1457	1301
Freshford	89	167	162
Severn Beach	135	355	347
St Andrews Road	30	79	81
Avonmouth	218	728	695
Shirehampton	86	481	447
Sea Mills	121	371	349
Clifton Down	500	2111	2016
Redland	264	661	559
Montpelier	253	1138	1043
Stapleton Road sb	326	877	973
Lawrence Hill sb	263	870	785
Temple Meads sb	649	2589	2473
Severn Beach line trains total	2845	10260	9768
Stapleton Road nsb	91	503	618
Lawrence Hill nsb	49	608	613
Stations - Temple Meads - Severn Beach: all trains	2985	11371	10999

Notes: the figures above are taken from the November weekday count, which was undertaken annually by the West of England local authorities until 2017, and is a one-day snapshot of the total number of passengers both boarding and alighting at the station on the day of the count. No more recent full local authority counts have been carried out.

nsb = not Severn Beach line passengers

sb = Severn Beach line passengers

* = fault with camera - previous year figures used

Office of Rail and Road annual station usage statistics

West of England	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Avonmouth	144,110	123,932	107,752
Bath Spa	6,432,334	6,395,694	6,538,056
Bedminster	93,744	91,822	95,466
Bristol Parkway	2,499,246	2,324,808	2,208,904
Bristol Temple Meads	11,336,806	11,350,146	11,367,652
Clifton Down	764,192	692,122	628,888
Filton Abbey Wood	1,064,634	1,047,756	901,972
Freshford	45,468	44,732	53,368
Keynsham	472,630	454,164	511,642
Lawrence Hill	170,084	151,626	148,606
Montpelier	111,540	102,004	94,684
Nailsea & Backwell	504,048	507,296	497,878
Oldfield Park	313,230	305,390	322,654
Parson Street	145,608	138,996	149,700
Patchway	88,008	110,632	104,078
Pilning	230	478	458
Redland	94,454	88,876	88,338
Sea Mills	62,162	54,484	52,630
Severn Beach	310,818	292,044	251,994
Shirehampton	55,762	48,700	47,234
St Andrew's Road	6,522	5,516	4,724
Stapleton Road	183,780	179,780	168,674
Weston Milton	68,594	71,900	82,722
Weston-Super-Mare	1,147,152	1,145,068	1,160,960
Worle	321,306	322,548	319,048
Yate	392,910	385,182	341,994
Yatton	443,806	469,210	476,586
Total - West of England	27,273,178	26,904,906	26,726,662

Note: The Severn Beach line has zonal fares, so individual station recorded figures may not be correct. Figures above are from ORR station usage, based on ticket sales allocated LENNON data.

Wiltshire (selected)			
Avoncliff	21,016	20,519	24,396
Bradford-On-Avon	543,246	525,968	534,086
Chippenham	1,938,692	1,890,896	1,972,350
Trowbridge	983,704	930,134	933,894
Westbury	578,256	569,372	548,720

Somerset (selected)			
Bridgwater	344,290	346,450	365,788
Highbridge & Burnham	200,196	207,186	205,232
Taunton	1,433,160	1,460,750	1,531,416

Gloucestershire (selected)			
Cam & Dursley	201,188	188,918	191,426
Cheltenham Spa	2,352,712	2,400,434	2,485,720
Gloucester	1,479,538	1,477,988	1,551,632

Looking Ahead to our work in 2020

The Partnership welcomes suggestions for areas of work which fall within the key pillars of the Community Rail Strategy.

Some of our proposed activity, subject to confirmation of funding, for the year ahead includes:

Providing a Voice for the Community

Attending the meetings of local rail user groups, transport forums and wider community organisations. Feeding into rail industry and other community transport providers.

Developing new links with disability and passenger groups, with a pilot scheme focussing on Nailsea and Backwell station.

Promoting Sustainable Healthy Travel

The continuation of School Familiarisation Sessions for year six primary schools. Promoting use of integrated sustainable transport for school visits to local destinations.

Volunteer-led walks from local stations including a new accessible walks programme. Supporting the promotion of the [Wessex Wanderers](#) 25th anniversary walks programme.

Expanding the range of Days Out by Train promotional leaflets.

Sponsoring CCTV at Avonmouth and Severn Beach stations, enabling enhanced cycle facilities to be delivered in collaboration with the [Severn Ride and Stride project](#).

A feasibility study to be undertaken by Bath and North East Somerset Council exploring cycling and wayfinding possibilities at unstaffed stations.

An accessibility study for Filton Abbey Wood station to be undertaken by South Gloucestershire County Council.

A new walking link to Yatton station, to be delivered by North Somerset Council

Auditing the provision of up-to-date posters and information about onward travel arrangements e.g. by bus from local stations.

Bringing Communities together, Supporting Diversity and Inclusion

Promoting rail as a means of reaching the diverse range of cultural events taking place within walking distance of local stations across the region.

Continuing to host special events on trains, designed to introduce communities less familiar with using rail travel to their local service.

Converting a room at Bridgwater station to be available for use by the wider community.

Creating new community designed murals at Filton Abbey Wood, Nailsea and Backwell and Highbridge and Burnham stations.

Expanding the food growing partnership with Incredible Edible Bristol by a programme of teaching and learning events in the 'Secret Garden' at Avonmouth station.

Supporting Social and Economic Development

Monitoring the effect of timetable issues and identifying opportunities for improvements.

Promoting visits by the rail to the region including a "Community Rail in the City" stand at Paddington station.

Continuing to promote social enterprise at local stations, e.g. the [Strawberry Line Café](#) at Yatton.

Passengers using local/regional trains in the West of England

Calendar year	2017	2018	2019
Cardiff - Bristol - Westbury - Portsmouth/Weymouth	9,324,000	9,168,877	9,564,988
Bristol - Severn Beach	1,364,000	1,162,382	1,407,102
Bristol - Weston-super-Mare - Taunton	2,129,000	2,105,112	2,207,569
Bristol - Gloucester - Great Malvern	1,558,000	1,457,673	1,529,081
Total West of England Local/regional journeys	14,375,000	13,894,044	14,708,740

These figures are from GWR ticket sales allocated LENNON data and include only GWR journeys. Some journeys made for example on Rover tickets or employee passes, or on substitute buses, may not have been recorded. So the figures may underscore the total journeys, but this is unlikely to be significant. Reduced Passenger figures for 2018 reflect the considerable line closures due to improvement work.

Accounts and Financial statement

Year ended 31 March 2019 - Balance Sheet

	£	£
	2019	2018
Fixed Assets		
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	72,097	34,443
	72,097	34,443
Creditors:		
Amounts falling due within one year	(43,374)	(874)
Net Assets	28,723	33,569
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	28,723	33,569
Represented By:		
Restricted Reserves	1,404	2589
Unrestricted Reserves	27,319	30,980
	28,723	33,569

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities: The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime of the Companies Act 2006.

These financial statements were approved by the directors on 16 September 2019.

Year ended 31 March 2019 - Profit and Loss Account

	£	£
	2019	2018
Turnover	134,309	94,725
Administration Expense	(139,204)	(98,343)
Operating Profit / (Loss)	(4,895)	(3,618)
Interest Receivable	49	2
Profit / (Loss) on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation	(4,846)	(3,616)
Corporation Tax	-	-
Retained Profit Brought Forward	33,569	37,185
Balance Carried Forward	28,723	33,569

The Company has no recognised gains or losses other than the profit/loss for the above financial period. None of the Company's activities were acquired or discontinued during the above financial period.

Severnside Community Rail Partnership

Year ended 31 March 2019 - Income and Expenditure information

Income	£ Restricted	£ Unrestricted	£ Total 2019	£ Total 2018
Membership contributions from partners	-	50,000	50,000	50,000
Miscellaneous	950	-	950	2,784
Cross Country	22,628	-	22,628	14,615
GWR	34,400	10,000	44,400	20,622
South Gloucestershire Council	12,659	-	12,659	-
Severn Beach Line General	-	-	-	5,204
Yate	1,000	-	1,000	-
Patchway	1,172	-	1,172	-
Somerset	1,500	-	1,500	1,500
Bank Interest	49	-	49	2
	74,358	60,000	134,358	94,727

Expenditure	£	£	£	£
	2019	2018	2019	2018
Travel & Subsistence	-	834	834	896
Salary and Payroll costs	-	50,949	50,949	42,986
Telephone/IT	-	2,237	2,237	2,970
Postage/stationery	-	283	283	250
Meetings/Events	-	183	183	181
Accountancy/Audit/Insurance	-	1,342	1,342	1,337
Accommodation	-	6,643	6,643	6,594
School Visits	-	82	82	683
Miscellaneous	3,534	1,108	4,642	8,376
Station Improvements				
Station planters	-	-	-	10,746
Severn Beach line stations	11,070	-	11,070	13,106
other Bristol local stations	1,183	-	1,183	392
North Somerset stations	3,495	-	3,495	549
Bath and NE Somerset stations	1,579	-	1,579	5,925
South Gloucestershire stations	1,000	-	1,000	96
Somerset stations	300	-	300	125
Other Activities				
Signal Box renovation Temple Meads	28,015	-	28,015	2,436
Other Projects	9,667	-	9,667	694
Repayment to GWR	15,000	-	15,000	-
	75,543	63,661	139,204	98,342

Surplus/Deficit For The Year	(1,185)	(3,661)	(4,846)	(3,616)
Balance brought forward	2,589	30,980	33,569	37,185
Balance at 31 March 2019	1,404	27319	28,723	33,569

Contributions in kind: we are grateful for travel passes provided by First Great Western and Cross Country Trains, which are not included above.

SEVERN SIDE

Community Rail Partnership



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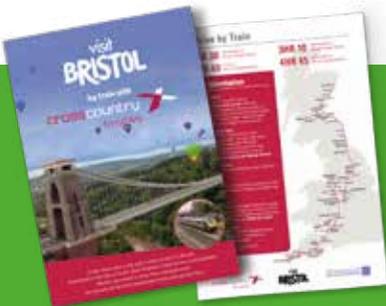


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The Partnership hosted a stand at Birmingham New Street station, generously supported by CrossCountry Trains as part of Community Rail in the City.