

THE ECONOMIC NEED FOR A FASTER RAILWAY

Rail and our economy

Journey times to the South West are significantly greater than journey times for comparable distances to the North. The Peninsula is one of the most peripheral areas in the country, and so improving access and connectivity will be major factors in the regeneration of the region.

A PRTF study has established a relationship between journey time from London and productivity which demonstrates a **decrease of 6% in productivity for every additional 100 minutes travel time from London.**

Modelling of the economic benefits has demonstrated that even a **journey time improvement of 26 minutes will realise £520 million of GVA and an additional 2600 FTEs** for the South West Peninsula.

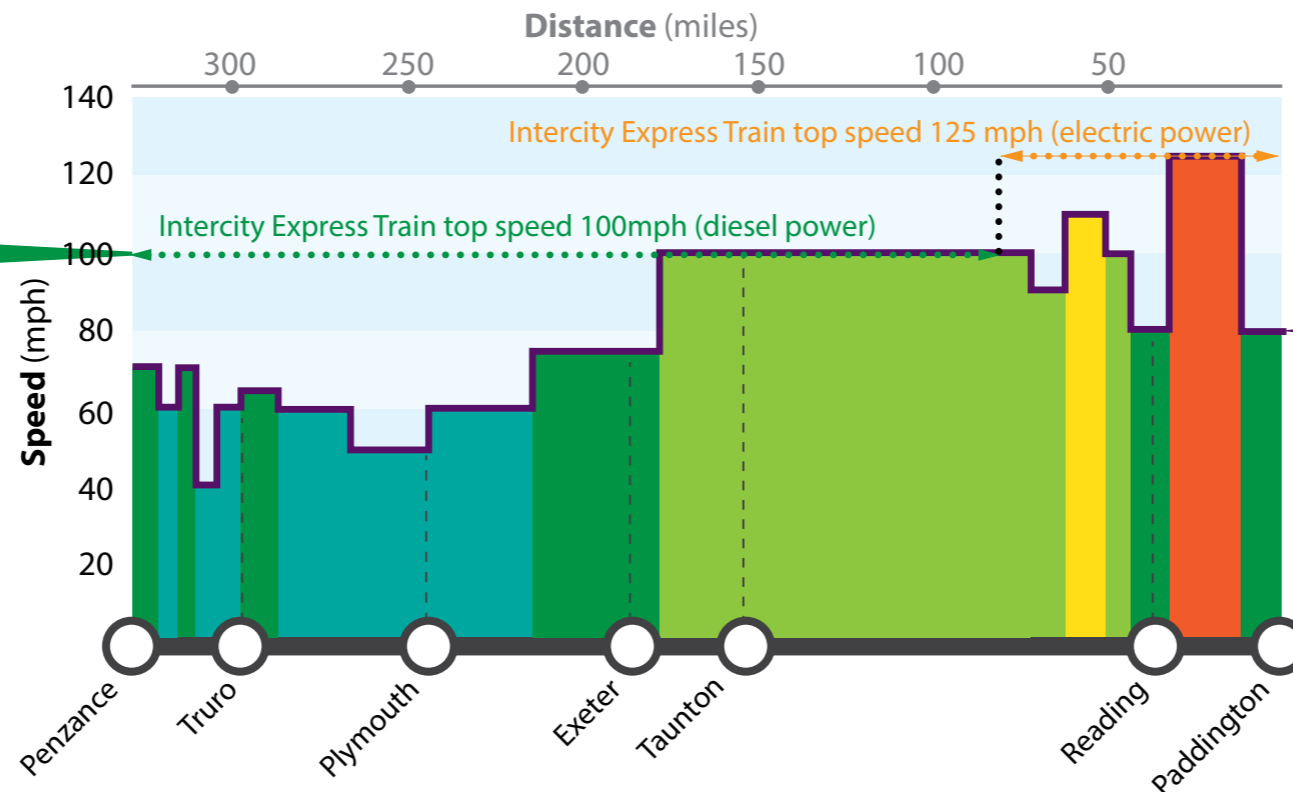


New Express Trains

First Great Western is in discussion with the DfT about delivering new Intercity Express Trains for services between London and the South West Peninsula. First has selected the Hitachi AT300 and will deliver 29 new trains.

The new trains will be running in December 2018 and will deliver:

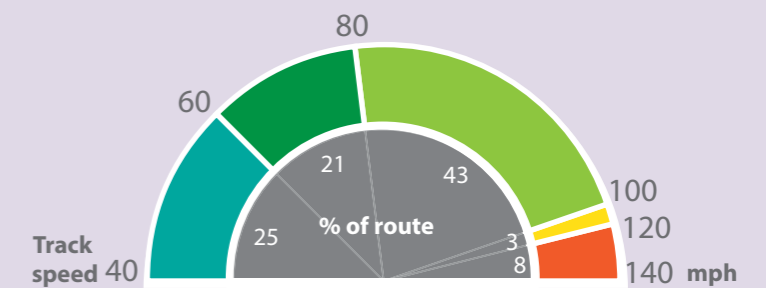
- ➔ Improved reliability and journey times
- ➔ Improved passenger capacity
- ➔ Improved passenger comfort
- ➔ Improved accessibility



Line Speed Improvements

In order to maximise the benefits of the new Intercity Express Trains improvements to the track infrastructure to improve line speed are also needed. Network Rail have identified an initial package of track improvements which can deliver a journey time saving of 12 mins.

Line speeds on the route between London and Penzance



Opportunities exist to improve line speed by:

- ➔ Provision of new higher speed sections on the route
- ➔ Addressing existing track layout and curvature constraints
- ➔ Through track renewals and maintenance
- ➔ Reconfiguring junctions to enhance speed
- ➔ Upgrading signalling to ETCS

The PRTF are keen to work with the DfT and rail industry to look at innovative ways of delivering these improvements.

Journey time saving
14 mins

Delivers economic uplift of

£280m*
GVA

Total
£520m*
GVA

£240m*
GVA

Delivers economic uplift of

Journey time saving
12 mins

* Source: Productivity and Wider Economic Impact Study - PRTF