

Elizabeth line central section to open in summer 2019 to guarantee a safe and reliable railway for customers

- **Central section opening date revised to enable completion of construction and robust and integrated systems testing**
- **New railway remains on track to fully open in December 2019**

Crossrail Ltd announced today a revised delivery schedule for the completion of the central section of the Elizabeth line. This will see it open through central London in summer 2019, with the completed railway on schedule to open in December 2019, as planned.

The hugely complex, ten year infrastructure project is now in its final construction phases. This has been a massive engineering challenge and the work remaining to complete the railway means that the central section between Paddington and Abbey Wood will now open in summer 2019 instead of December 2018.

The new schedule provides the necessary time for Crossrail Ltd to complete the railway's final infrastructure, including the completion of essential communication equipment which links to key functions at the stations, including the air conditioning, escalators, lifts, platform edge doors and emergency exits. Once this is complete, Crossrail Ltd will then conduct full testing of the signalling and other infrastructure together, before Transport for London conducts the very final live trials, ahead of opening the new railway to customers.

Building the railway has involved some of the most complex engineering ever undertaken. It is vital to integrate the full testing of the stations, signalling and trains running through the stations in order to guarantee a safe and reliable railway.

The Elizabeth line remains on track to fully open between Reading and Heathrow in the west through the central tunnels to Shenfield and Abbey Wood in the east by December 2019.

Crossrail Ltd, said: "We have made, and continue to make, huge progress with the construction of this complex project, but it is now clear we need more time to complete the final pieces of infrastructure that will enable integrated testing of this brand new railway. I know this delay to the opening of the central section is disappointing but our primary concern has to be opening a safe and reliable railway where everything has been fully tested before it opens to passengers."

Mark Wild, London Underground & Elizabeth line Managing Director, said: "We are on the cusp of opening the Elizabeth line which will redefine transport in London. Allowing more time for the completion of construction and integrated testing will enable us to run a safe and reliable railway from day one. We will continue to work closely with Crossrail Ltd on the delivery of the end-to-end railway which remains on schedule to fully open as planned in December 2019."

DfT, said: "XXX"

Brand new Elizabeth line trains are already operating between Shenfield and Liverpool Street and between Paddington and Hayes & Harlington, in readiness for the full opening. The trains are also being successfully tested in the Heathrow tunnels.

When the central section of the Elizabeth line opens in summer 2019, the railway will initially operate as three separate services, as planned:

- Paddington (Elizabeth line station) to Abbey Wood via central London
- Paddington (mainline station) to Heathrow (Terminals 2 & 3 and 4)
- Liverpool Street (mainline station) to Shenfield

The Elizabeth line will be fully open by December 2019, with services running from Reading and Heathrow in the west (including Terminal 5) through the central tunnels to Shenfield and Abbey Wood in the east.

The new railway, jointly sponsored by TfL and the DfT with support from London's business community, will connect stations such as Paddington to Canary Wharf in only 17 minutes, transforming how Londoners and visitors move across the capital. The Elizabeth line will increase central London's rail capacity by 10%. It will bring an extra 1.5 million people to within 45 minutes of central London and more than 200 million passengers are expected to use it every year.

The Elizabeth line is expected to support 90,000 new homes along the route by 2021, doubling to 180,000 by 2026. Over 360,000 new jobs are predicted by 2021, boosting the UK economy by £42 billion. All 41 stations on the Elizabeth line will have step-free access. This includes the new stations in central London and existing stations in east and west London that will become part of the line.

Notes to Editors

Crossrail Limited issued Transport for London and the Department for Transport with an Adverse Event Notice, a requirement of the Crossrail Act on the X August. This outlines the need for a revised delivery schedule for the central section of the railway. This notice is available here: [LINK](#)

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