



Department
for Transport

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From the Secretary of State
The Rt. Hon. Patrick McLoughlin

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Dear Cllr Ashley,

Thank you for your letter of 30 September 2015 regarding Network Rail's Capacity Plus study and future development of the Watford Jn. to St Albans Abbey Line.

The purpose of the Capacity Plus study is to consider how released capacity on the West Coast Main Line could be used to provide better services for passengers and freight following the opening of HS2 phase 1 in 2026. I am pleased to learn that the emerging proposals will bring benefits to passengers in Hertfordshire.

In relation to future development of the Watford Jn. to St Albans Abbey Line, the Department understands that officials from Network Rail have recently met with representatives of Hertfordshire County Council and, in light of the latest local economic forecasts, agreed to undertake further development of options for a 30 minute frequency and for through services to London.

The Department is pleased that local authorities are working closely with Network Rail on the Capacity Plus study and looks forward to receiving the findings of the study in due course.

Yours sincerely

THE RT. HON. PATRICK McLOUGHLIN