



Press release

London's Elizabeth line to transform travel across the capital

London, 24 May 2022: Today's opening of the Elizabeth line marks a new chapter for railway travel across the capital, introducing a transformative way to connect people and communities.

Since its inception, MTR Elizabeth line (MTREL), the operator of the Elizabeth line on behalf of Transport for London (TfL), has been widely recognised for its commitment to the communities in which it operates, prioritising employing local people that are representative of the diverse communities they serve* and working closely with community groups to offer a safe and accessible service.

The Elizabeth line will offer an easier, faster and more enjoyable travel experience, cutting journey times and providing improved capacity both at the spacious stations and on the longer, walk-through trains. With greater accessibility across the route and the provision of a 'turn up and go' service to anyone requiring assistance, many more customers will be able to take advantage of the benefits of rail travel.

For the first time, passengers will be able to travel between key London locations including Canary Wharf, Liverpool Street, Tottenham Court Road, Paddington and Heathrow in record time. Initially, the Elizabeth line will operate across three sections with full services introduced across the entire route by 2023, creating more seamless journeys into and across central London from the West and East of the city.

Chief Executive Officer of MTR UK, Steve Murphy, said: "We have been working closely with multiple partners towards this goal including TfL, Crossrail, Network Rail, and Alstom, and are excited to reach this historic milestone that will greatly enhance connectivity while helping to drive the capital's economic recovery.

"I am particularly pleased for two groups of people that this day has arrived. Firstly, for Londoners who have always been so supportive of this immense project and secondly, for our outstanding colleagues at MTREL who I've been privileged to work alongside. Commencing services on the Elizabeth line would not have been possible without their considerable effort and expertise and I'm incredibly proud of their achievements."

MTR Elizabeth line's Managing Director, Nigel Holness, added: "We are committed to delivering the highest standards of operational reliability and efficiency for our passengers and look forward to welcoming customers onto the new Elizabeth line. I would like to thank all our MTR Elizabeth line colleagues for their hard work leading up to the opening of the line and for their ongoing dedication to serving our local communities."

* As of January 2022, 75% of MTREL employees were from the local community (living in one of the boroughs the Elizabeth line will serve).

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Notes to Editors

- MTR Elizabeth line, a wholly owned subsidiary of MTR Corporation, previously ran TfL Rail services between Liverpool Street and Shenfield, and Heathrow and Reading to Paddington. Now the Elizabeth line has opened, the company's operations cover all aspects of train and passenger service on behalf of Transport for London (TfL).
- The new line is set to be crucial to London's recovery from the pandemic, helping avoid a car-led recovery by providing new journey options, supporting regeneration across the capital, and adding an estimated £42bn to the UK economy.
- The new railway will connect stations such as Paddington to Canary Wharf in only 17 minutes, transforming how Londoners and visitors navigate the capital.
- The Elizabeth line will initially operate in three sections: there will be 12 trains per hour between Paddington and Abbey Wood from Monday to Saturday 06:30 to 23:00. Work will continue in engineering hours and on Sundays to allow a series of testing and software updates in preparation for more intensive services from the autumn.
- A special service will operate on the Central Section (Paddington – Abbey Wood) on Sunday 5 June for the Platinum Jubilee weekend. Services will run from approximately 08:00 – 22:00.
- Services between Liverpool Street and Shenfield, and Paddington to Heathrow and Reading will continue to operate on Sundays as they do today aside from any planned weekend closures.
- All services between Reading and Heathrow to Paddington and Shenfield to Liverpool Street, previously operating as TfL Rail, have been rebranded to the Elizabeth line. Customers travelling between Reading or Heathrow into London will need to change at Paddington for services into the central section of the route, and customers from Shenfield into London will need to change at Liverpool Street. Services from Reading, Heathrow and Shenfield will connect with the central tunnels in autumn when frequencies will also be increased to 22 trains per hour in the peak between Paddington and Whitechapel.
- All Elizabeth line stations will be staffed from first to the last train, with a 'turn up and go' service offered to anyone needing assistance. Step-free access is in place from street to train across all Elizabeth line stations between Paddington and Woolwich.
- Trains will not initially stop at Bond Street Elizabeth line station, which is on track to open later in 2022.
- Customers will be able to plan their journeys on the Elizabeth line using the TfL Go app and Journey Planner.

Timeline of the Elizabeth line:

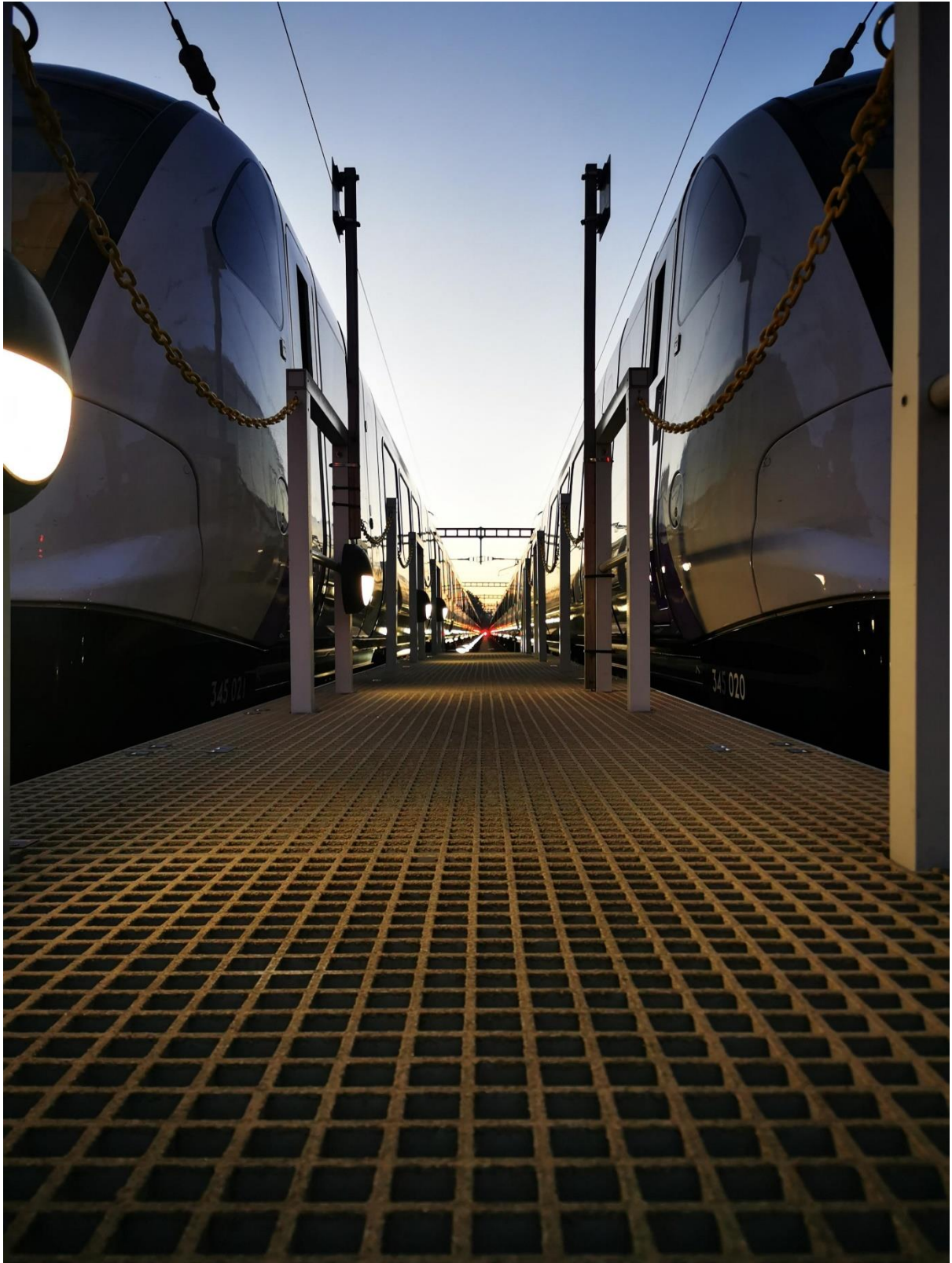
- Since World War II, many proposals for an east-west railway under London were made and developed, culminating in the first full Crossrail scheme being submitted to Parliament in 1991. That scheme did not pass the committee stage, but the safeguarded route was used for the central section of a revised scheme recommended by the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) London East West Study in 2000.
- A joint venture between the Strategic Rail Authority and Transport for London (TfL) was set up in 2001 to promote the project. Outline design, consultation and business case development led to a scheme ready to submit to Parliament.
- The Crossrail Bill was submitted in February 2005. Scrutiny in Parliament reinstated Woolwich station which had been dropped during development. The Crossrail Act received Royal Assent in July 2008.

- A development agreement between TfL and the Department for Transport as joint sponsors established Crossrail Limited and the formal start of construction for Crossrail was marked at Canary Wharf on 15 May 2009.
- The main construction phase was launched in 2011. Tunnelling for the new rail tunnels began in May 2012 and was completed in May 2015. Eight tunnel boring machines (TBM) created the new tunnels under London with further works on stations, platform tunnels, shafts and portals continuing after TBM tunnelling finished.
- Installation of railway systems such as track, power and signalling began once the tunnels were ready in 2015. Systems were also fitted into stations and other structures, then tested and commissioned as an overall system.
- In 2015, TfL Rail services were introduced from Liverpool Street to Shenfield, operated by MTR Elizabeth line. MTR is accountable for the provision of train drivers, station staff and control room operators and will continue to work alongside TfL colleagues to provide the service across the Elizabeth line.
- In 2016, Her Majesty the Queen visited Bond Street station and the railway was renamed the Elizabeth line.
- In 2017, the first of the new Elizabeth line trains was introduced between Liverpool Street and Shenfield.
- 2018 saw the introduction of TfL Rail services between Paddington and Heathrow (taking over Heathrow Connect) and the introduction of the new Class 345 trains between Paddington and Hayes & Harlington. Then, in 2019, TfL Rail services commenced between Paddington and Reading with new Elizabeth line trains.
- Extensive commissioning of the railway commenced in spring 2021 when Trial Running began, and Trial Operations commenced in November 2021.
- The Elizabeth line opened on 24 May 2022 with full services across the entire route being introduced by May 2023.

Photos

The photos shared on the accompanying page are as follows:

- 1) Class 345 trains in a depot
- 2) Escalators in Paddington's Elizabeth line station
- 3) Interior of an Elizabeth line train carriage
- 4) An MTR Elizabeth line train driver alongside an Elizabeth line train







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About MTR UK

MTR UK is a subsidiary of MTR Corporation. We demonstrate our reputation for operational excellence, exceptional customer service and innovation across our UK portfolio, bringing together railway operations, rail infrastructure and transport-focused property development. With a consistent track record of delivering through collaborative partnerships and joint ventures, we offer ground-breaking, technology-led approaches.

The company's UK rail operations includes oversight of MTR Elizabeth line, the operator of the Elizabeth line (on behalf of Transport for London), covering all aspects of train and passenger service operations. MTR UK has operated South Western Railway, one of the largest UK franchises, as a joint venture with First Group since August 2017.

For more information about MTR UK, please visit mtr.uk.com.

For more information about MTR Elizabeth line, please visit mtrel.co.uk.

About MTR Corporation

Every day, MTR connects people and communities. As a recognised world-class operator of sustainable rail transport services, we are a leader in safety, reliability, customer service and efficiency. MTR has extensive end-to-end railway expertise with more than 40 years of railway projects experience from design to planning and construction through to commissioning, maintenance and operations.

Going beyond railway delivery and operation, MTR also creates and manages dynamic communities around its network through seamless integration of rail, commercial and property development.

With more than 40,000 dedicated employees*, MTR carries over 13 million passenger journeys worldwide every weekday in Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Australia and the Mainland of China. MTR strives to grow and connect communities for a better future.

For more information about MTR Corporation, please visit mtr.com.hk

*Includes our subsidiaries and associates in Hong Kong and worldwide