

New Civil Engineer

Exclusive | Skanska eyes Heathrow rail link in Windsor consortium

25 July, 2018 By [Katherine Smale](#)



Windsor Link Railway is to form a consortium with Skanska and submit plans to build the new rail line to the Department for Transport (DfT), *New Civil Engineer* can reveal.

The plans will be submitted as part of the government's call for ideas on market led rail (MLPs) proposals to increase the amount of third party funding for rail projects.

The consortium will also propose to build a link into Heathrow Airport to the south, and consequently will be in direct competition with the [£1.2bn Aecom-backed Heathrow Southern Rail bid](#).

A source said the deal between Windsor Link Railway and Skanska had been recently signed off and it was planning to enter the bid into the MLP process which closes at the end of this month.

A spokesperson for Skanska added: "We understand that the Department for Transport and Network Rail are exploring different models for improving the rail infrastructure in the UK. Skanska is keen to understand those and any potential role it can play.

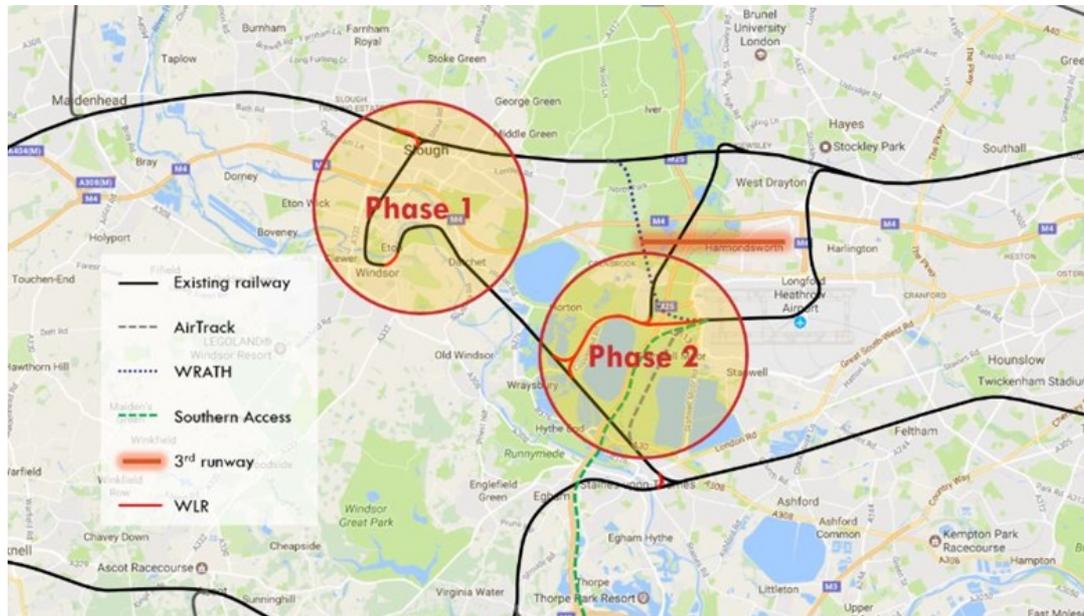
"However, we cannot comment on individual proposals at this stage."

The Windsor Link Railway bid is split into two phases.

In phase one, a new tunnelled rail link to connect Windsor & Eton Central Station and Windsor & Eton Riverside Station would be built. This would connect the Great Western Railway and South Western Railway, joining Slough with Waterloo.

In phase two, a short link from Heathrow airport connecting into the South Western Railway spur from Staines to Windsor would be built, providing the southern access to Heathrow airport.

The scheme also suggests that the new links will solve the western access issue into Heathrow.



Windsor Link Railway

There are currently three separate schemes calling for private cash investment in the railway.

In March the DfT [fired the starting gun on bids](#) to build the Southern Rail Link to Heathrow (SRLtH).

Likewise, Network Rail published its proposals for the [Western Rail Link to Heathrow \(WRLtH\)](#), and invited firms to bid for part of the scheme.

The Windsor Link Railway will present its plans to the DfT as part of the MLP call for ideas, but will span across all three schemes.

In an earlier announcement, WLR managing director George Bathurst told *New Civil Engineer* how its proposal to link up sections of existing track [could cut the combined price tag of both western and southern projects](#) in half.

A Network Rail spokesperson said: “We welcome the Government’s call for market led proposals, which have the potential to increase the capacity of the railway and reduce the burden on taxpayers. We are pleased to have been working with the Windsor Link Railway, which is one of the first such schemes, and we look forward to working with all market led proposal promoters.”

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