



# Countdown

## How long could it take to build?

Building Crossrail would be a major task. As an engineering challenge, it requires complex and sophisticated design, development and construction techniques.

Before the first track can be laid, Crossrail requires approval by Government, financial investment and a wide range of commercial and legal contracts to be agreed.

Based on experience from delivering projects in the UK and around the world, we estimate that it could be built over a six-year period. Our current timetable assumes that we would secure Royal Assent (approval to build the railway) for the proposed Crossrail Bill in Parliament by as early as the end of 2006. This means that trains could be running on the Crossrail network by 2013.

## When could work take place?

The following steps could get Crossrail trains running by 2013.

### Summer/Autumn 2004

Public Consultation Round 2

### Autumn 2004

Round 2 comment and design review

### Early 2005

Final Information Round

### Spring 2005

Possible start of authorisation process (Parliamentary Bill deposit)

### Late Spring 2005

Possible Parliamentary Bill reading and petition period

### Summer 2005

Advance works could start

### Summer 2005/2006

Possible public scrutiny of Crossrail in Parliament

### Late 2006

Possible approval of Crossrail (Royal Assent)

### Summer 2007

Possible construction start

### Summer 2013

Possible start of passenger service

## Would all Crossrail services start at the same time?

Because of its size, Crossrail would be developed in a number of phases and be integrated into the existing London rail and underground network through a carefully managed programme. Although the new tunnels, signals, stations and track would all be constructed over the same period, the new train services would be progressively tested and brought into service, following a systematic programme. This would, in turn, enable new services to be phased in at the earliest opportunity.

Crossrail trains would be sharing the same track and stations as other services on some parts of the network. We would need to make sure that, as they are phased in, there is no major disruption to existing train services and the passengers who use them.

Crossrail would improve transport services across London. Our aim is to ensure that, as each new Crossrail service is phased in, there is an overall benefit to train users, whether they use Crossrail for their journey or enjoy the benefits of reduced crowding on other parts of the area's transport network.

## How can you be sure that you would meet the timescales?

Some key principles which determine our timing are:

1. Avoiding unnecessary disruption to existing rail and underground services;
2. Ensuring that the programme is realistic;
3. Carrying-out detailed planning as early as possible;
4. Carrying out advanced works on time

Our first priority in scheduling construction works is to ensure that existing services continue uninterrupted, where practical.

Secondly, we need to make sure that the programme is deliverable. The scale and technical demands of the project require specialist expertise, resources (both human and material) all of which need to be in the right place at the right time.

The construction programme is drawing on experience from recent projects, such as the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and the Jubilee Line Extension, to help work out the timescales.

We are using risk analysis techniques which work by highlighting possible problems in delivering the project. This helps us to develop contingency plans and solutions in advance, so that we are in the best position to get the work done on time.

## What about the Olympics?

Although Crossrail could not be built in time for the 2012 Games and is an entirely separate project, both schemes include major regeneration and construction works in East London. For this reason, we are working closely with the Olympic bid team to make sure that our proposals are complementary.

## Further information

If you would like further information, please contact the Crossrail team. You can either phone the help desk on 0845 602 3813, e-mail us on [helpdesk@crossrail.co.uk](mailto:helpdesk@crossrail.co.uk), send a message through our web site at [www.Crossrail.co.uk](http://www.Crossrail.co.uk) or write to us at, Consultation Team, FREEPOST NAT6945, London SW1 0BR. Crossrail's Round 2 Public Consultation ends on 27 October, 2004.

