



Liverpool Lime Street station

Jul 30, 2018 10:04 BST

Liverpool Lime Street station reopens on time following eight-week transformation

Train services resumed in and out of Liverpool Lime Street today (30 July) following a successful eight-week upgrade of Merseyside's gateway station.

The Lime Street station upgrade is part of the Great North Rail Project, a rail industry team effort to transform rail travel for customers in future, through track and train improvements across the North.

Martin Frobisher, Network Rail's London North Western route managing director, said: "The transformation of Liverpool Lime Street is the station's

biggest upgrade since the 19th century.

“We’ve remodelled station platforms, making them wider and longer to make room for longer trains and more passengers. An extensive signalling upgrade also allows us to run more trains, more reliably.

“This vital upgrade is part of £340m of improvements across the Liverpool City Region and sits within the wider Great North Rail Project. This work will bring significant improvements for train customers for generations to come.

“I’d like to say a big thank you to all passengers for bearing with us while we deliver these much-needed railway upgrades.”

The station reopened on time, with the most noticeable change for passengers being to the platforms. All station platforms have been remodelled and many lengthened and widened to create vital space for longer trains and more passengers. Two new platforms, built last year, have also been commissioned.

In addition to this, just under 3km of track has been upgraded and the track layout completely remodelled to enable more services to run in and out of the station, more reliably.

Extensive upgrades to signalling equipment and overhead line equipment have also been completed. Signalling control has now been moved to centrally-operated Manchester Rail Operating Centre. This means more reliable journeys for passengers, allowing faster decision making on the railway to minimise delays.

The station’s eight week transformation this summer is the second major phase of its upgrade, the first taking place in autumn last year.

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling said: “Liverpool Lime Street passengers can now take advantage of new platforms, longer trains, more services and more seats thanks to this upgrade.

“Passengers are at the very heart of every decision we make and this is just one part of a huge investment across the north. This includes £3bn on the Transpennine upgrade, all Northern and TransPennine Express trains being

replaced or refurbished, more than £1bn in improvements on other parts of the northern network and up to £780m investment on the East Coast Main line.”

Steve Rotheram, Liverpool City Region Metro Mayor, said: “These improvements will significantly improve services for rail users in the Liverpool City Region, and I’m pleased they have been completed on time.

“This is only the start of the ambitions we have set out in the Long Term Rail Strategy, helping to get the city region moving more efficiently and drive increased growth and investment in the area.

“We really appreciate the patience shown by passengers over the last eight weeks and I’m sure they will be pleased by the improved and increased number of services that these upgrades will bring.”

Chris Nutton, Major Projects Director at TransPennine Express, said: “The completion of this major milestone is great news for customers and I want to thank those affected for their patience over the last eight weeks.

“This crucial work will mean we can operate longer trains with more seats with the first of our brand new Nova trains set to start serving customers in Liverpool later this year.”

Andy Heath, managing director of Merseyrail said: “We have been pleased to support this important expansion project by bringing mainline passengers in to the city centre via Liverpool South Parkway station. Transport improvements like the Lime Street upgrade and our new fleet of trains, which will arrive on the network in 2020 and carry 50% more passengers, are vital to support growth in the region and ensure we can meet the demand on services.

“I’d like to thank our staff at Liverpool South Parkway and Central for their efforts to keep passengers moving, and thank our regular passengers who have accommodated some timetable changes recently to allow us to support the project with a shuttle service in to the city centre.”

Some additional, final works will take place on Sunday 2 September and Sunday 14 October before full project completion, which will see new

platforms 1 and 2 come into full passenger use. These upgrades will enable an extra three services per hour in and out of Lime Street station, including new direct services to Scotland.

ENDS

Contact information

Passengers / community members
Network Rail national helpline
03457 11 41 41

Latest travel advice
Please [visit National Rail Enquiries](#)

Journalists
Network Rail press office -Chelsea Green
Chelsea.Green@networkrail.co.uk

Notes to editors

For further information on West Midlands Trains, London Northwestern Railway or West Midlands Railway call our **newsroom** on **03300 955150**.

About West Midlands Trains

West Midlands Trains Ltd. will be running the West Midlands rail franchise from 10 December 2017 until 2025/6. Abellio has a 70.1% share of the company, East Japan Railway Company (JRE) and Mitsui & Co., Ltd. (Mitsui) own the remaining 29.9% in a 50:50 split.

About Abellio

Abellio is the international passenger transport subsidiary of the Dutch national railway company, Nederlandse Spoorwegen. Every day our people provide rail, bus and tram services to 1.7m customers across the UK, Germany and in the Netherlands. In the UK we operate buses through Abellio London,

as well as ScotRail and Greater Anglia train services, and Merseyrail in a joint venture with Serco. In Germany we operate Abellio Deutschland, serving communities in North Rhine Westfalia, Saxony, Lower Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Hesse and Thuringia. Our role in transport extends beyond the journey from a-to-b. With our international heritage and our policy of sharing best practice, not just amongst ourselves, but across the wider transport industry, we provide thought leadership and truly innovative ideas which make a positive contribution to the communities we serve. For more information on Abellio visit www.abellio.com

About Mitsui

Mitsui is one of the most diversified and comprehensive trading, investment and service enterprises in the world with 139 offices in 66 countries as of March, 2017. Utilising our global operating locations, network and information resources, we are multilaterally pursuing business that ranges from product sales, worldwide logistics and financing, through to the development of major international infrastructure and other projects in the following fields: Iron & Steel Products, Mineral & Metal Resources, Infrastructure Projects, Integrated Transportation Systems, Chemicals, Energy, Food Resources, Food Products & Services, Consumer Services, IT & Communication, and Corporate Development Business. Mitsui is actively taking on challenges for global business innovation around the world. For more information, visit www.mitsui.com.

About JR East

East Japan Railway Company (JR East) was established in 1987, when Japanese National Railways was divided as part of a package of railway reforms. JR East's railway business covers a 7,500 km (approx. 4,660 miles) network in the eastern part of the Japanese main island, including Tokyo Metropolitan area, and provides transportation services, comprising urban, suburban and high speed operations, for 17 million passengers on a daily basis. JR East also undertakes non-transport commercial activities, which account for more than 30% of the total revenue of JR East Group. JR East contributes to passengers and communities it serves by delivering high degrees of punctuality, reliability and comfort and also continues to pursue higher levels of safety and service quality through technical innovation. For more information, visit www.jreast.co.jp/e.

Contacts



Press Office

Press Contact

03300 955150