

Dear Member

This is a mini-update on the latest situation regarding 12 carriage trains that will come into service from Monday.



1. There was a 12 carriage test service today during the day.
2. BLACKFRIARS:
 - South entrance and Thames path opened Monday morning this week.
 - North entrance:
 - Additional entrance opens on the west side from Monday 12th (this is the long term / permanent entrance). This will be open 6am - 8pm Monday to Friday until 26 February, then open at all times the station is open.
 - In a change of plan, the existing northern entrance on the east will remain open and the ticket office will remain in its current location for now. I believe that the temporary staircase will be removed imminently, there is an alternative stair case next to it. I do not have dates for the closure of the north eastern entrance but 26 February seems a logical date
 - The Underground Station at Blackfriars has a confirmed opening date of 26 February 2012.
3. CITY THAMESLINK: Has been basically ready since it opened. If you have not been recently, be aware that north bound trains now stop at the Ludgate Circus / north end.
4. FARRINGDON:
 - The FCC / National Rail ticket hall opens on the south side of Cowcross Street.
 - As you may know, the existing platform is very narrow at the City Thameslink end. There will be passage ways between the southern extension / FCC ticket hall and the existing platform, both north and south bound.
 - The FCC ticket hall has barriers and ticket machines at present, but no ticket office as yet.
 - Anyone who passes by on a train will no doubt be thinking “there is an awful lot to do before Monday”. FCC tell me that they have assurances from Network Rail that it will be ready (personally, I remember St Pancras International, which looked similar to this the week before - and that was open on the Sunday; however, I think it might be a good time to be a supplier of hoardings!). Apparently, the media and politicians have been lined up for Monday morning at Farringdon, so given the exceptional embarrassment that would be generated by a late deferred opening, I think we can be confident it will open on 12 December.
 - The existing LU entrance on Cowcross Street temporarily closes this week until 6 February and the only entrance to the Underground Station will be on Turnmill Street until 6 February.
 - From 7 February, there will be 3 entrances - Turnmill Street and both FCC and Underground entrances on Cowcross Street.
5. ST PANCRAS: Nothing to report.
6. WEST HAMPSTEAD: New ticket office opens, lifts come into use and ticket gates in use.

Useful links are as follows:

- FCC / Thameslink programme on Farringdon: <http://bit.ly/mQvAVn> (includes 5 minute Network Rail video).
- TfL on Farringdon: <http://bit.ly/skq1oE>.
- Stakeholder update on Blackfriars: See end of newsletter.
- Network Rail on Blackfriars Underground station: <http://bit.ly/s6eJmW>.

A reminder – 12 carriage and other changes to train times from 12 December

Longer trains in December

The following services will be 12 carriages from 12 December:

Bedford	0658	0730	0748	(Brighton)	1604	1630	1702
Flitwick	0708	0740	0758	London Bridge			1813
Harlington	0712		0802	London Blackfriars	1722	1752	1822
Leagrave	0718		0808	City Thameslink	1724	1754	1824
Luton	0722	0750	0812	Farringdon	1727	1757	1827
Luton Airport Parkway	0725		0815	St Pancras	1732	1802	1832
Harpenden	0731	0756	0821	St Albans	1750	1820	1850
St Albans	0738	0802	0827	Harpenden	1756	1826	1856
St Pancras	0756	0820	0848	Luton Airport Parkway			
Farringdon	0802	0826	0854	Luton	1802	1832	1902
City Thameslink	0805	0829	0857	Leagrave			
London Blackfriars	0808	0832	0900	Harlington			
London Bridge	0818		0912	Flitwick	1811	1841	1911
				Bedford	1823	1853	1923

(there is also a single 12 carriage train from Brighton in the morning and single 12 carriage train to Brighton in the evening).

For these services, FCC are receiving an additional three 377 trains from Southern, and from the original 23, increasing the number in service each day from 20 to 21. I understand that the 3 additional units will be branded FCC etc.

The following services will go from 4 to 8 carriages:

- 05:48 Luton to Sutton (via Wimbledon): Luton Airport Parkway: 05:40; Harpenden 05:56; St Albans 06:02; Radlett 06:07; Elstree & Borehamwood 06:12; Mill Hill Broadway 06:16; Hendon 06:19; Cricklewood 06:23; West Hampstead Thameslink 06:26; Kentish Town 06:30 London St Pancras 06:34; Farringdon 06:40; City Thameslink 06:43 & London Blackfriars 06:46.
- 09:14 St Albans to Sutton (via Mitcham Junction): Radlett 09:19; Elstree & Borehamwood 09:23; Mill Hill Broadway 09:28 Hendon 09:31; Cricklewood 09:35; West Hampstead Thameslink 09:39; Kentish Town 09:44; London St Pancras 09:48; Farringdon 09:53; City Thameslink 09:57 & London Blackfriars 10:00.
- 17:41 Sutton to Luton: London Blackfriars 18:32; City Thameslink 18:34; Farringdon 18:37; London St Pancras 18:42; Kentish Town 18:46; West Hampstead Thameslink 18:52; Cricklewood 18:55; Hendon 19:03; Elstree & Borehamwood 19:07; Radlett 19:11; St Albans 19:18; Harpenden 19:24; Luton Airport Parkway 19:30 and Luton 19:33.

Other changes north of the river in the peak flows include:

Various small changes of a minute or two.	06:26 Bedford to Sutton (via Wimbledon) will start at Luton	07:12 St Albans to Sevenoaks extended to start from Luton
07:22 Bedford to Sevenoaks - additional call at Mill Hill Broadway	17:07 Brighton to Bedford additional call at West Hampstead Thameslink (at 18:44)	

Regards

Neil

Neil Middleton
8 December 2011

FCC stakeholder update

I wanted to let you know that Blackfriars railway station today became the first station ever to span the River Thames as a new entrance opened on the South Bank.

We have also been given a new date for the opening of Blackfriars Tube station.

Meanwhile, everything is on target for our new 12-carriage services that begin on the Bedford - Brighton route on Monday next week which is also when our West Hampstead Thameslink new station building opens.

You can read more about all of this here: <http://www.thameslinkprogramme.co.uk/cms/pages/view/66>

South Bank entrance, Blackfriars



The new entrance on the South Bank that opened this morning is going to make a massive difference for our passengers at First Capital Connect. That's because the station now provides a direct link to the South Bank and Bankside with attractions such as Tate Modern, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and the National Theatre.

It's a huge improvement for anyone who works south of the river as well, shaving off as much as 10 minutes from the previous walking route which took people out through the north bank entrance and back across Blackfriars road bridge.

Incidentally, the Thames Path, which has been closed to pedestrians while construction work has been under way at Blackfriars, also reopened today, providing an uninterrupted walking route under Blackfriars bridge to connect with the new station entrance. Occasional night time and weekend closures of the Thames Path will be required over the coming months to allow some pieces of construction to be completed.

Blackfriars Tube station entrance

Separately, Network Rail has today announced a date for the reopening of Blackfriars Tube station, which will be 26 February. This is explained in a news release on their website: <http://bit.ly/s6eJmW>. Like our customers, we are very much looking forward to the return of Blackfriars Tube station. It would have been good to have had the Tube back at Blackfriars this month but it has been closed for two-and-a-half years now and the extra time required by Network Rail will ensure it opens in first class condition.

12-carriage services and West Hampstead Thameslink station

Both are on track for 12 December next week - in fact West Hampstead station will take over from the existing ticket office over the weekend of 10/11 December.