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EARL EXPRESS

FAST FACTS

- **EARL will connect Edinburgh Airport to Scotland's national rail network and will be operational by 2011.**
- **EARL will significantly increase the number of passengers travelling to and from the airport using public transport.**
- **Passenger usage of Edinburgh Airport has grown by 36% between 2000 and 2003, and is forecast to grow from 8 million people in 2004 to 21-23 million passengers by 2030.**

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AN EXCITING AND IMPORTANT DAY

The Scottish Parliament has begun considering a Bill which will connect Edinburgh Airport to Scotland's national rail network.

The Edinburgh Airport Rail Link (EARL) Bill, which was introduced to Parliament on March 16, will have a significant and positive impact on the way people move around the country. It will provide direct rail services between the airport and a wide range of towns and cities throughout Scotland.

The Bill is being promoted by tie limited, the organisation responsible for the delivery of the project. The Bill seeks powers to construct a new station at Edinburgh Airport, with links to the national rail network.

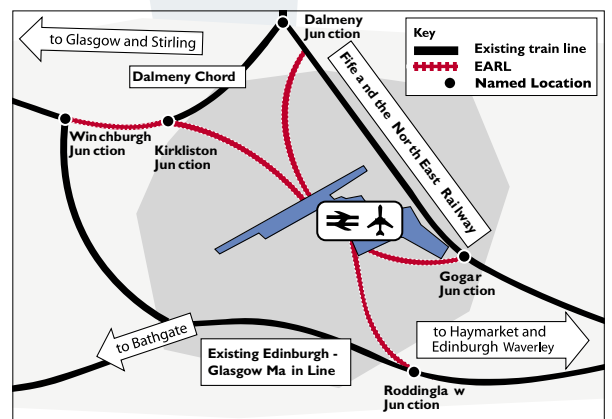
Tavish Scott, Minister for Transport, said: "This is a project of major national significance, benefiting businesses and passengers across Scotland, as well as the city of Edinburgh. This new link will offer real transport choices, while improving the quality of people's journeys."

"Edinburgh Airport Rail Link is the largest rail project in Scotland and underlines our commitment to public transport investment. Scotland has a rail enhancement programme that is the envy of the rest of Britain, and I

want Scotland to be the place where people come to see how rail projects are delivered."

Michael Howell, Chief Executive of tie limited, said: "This is an exciting and important day. This national project provides a real opportunity to transform rail travel in Scotland. It will help create a world class transport hub at Edinburgh Airport, allowing quick and efficient rail travel to and from the Airport from across Scotland. In addition EARL provides a fantastic arrival point for visitors and residents alike."

"We have worked hard with many organisations in preparing the EARL Bill and are delighted that, so far, it has received widespread support from the public, politicians and also organisations involved in the rail industry."



The proposed route of the Edinburgh Airport Rail Link

EARL VIEWS - WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

Alan Wilson, Chief Executive, Scottish Council of Development and Industry

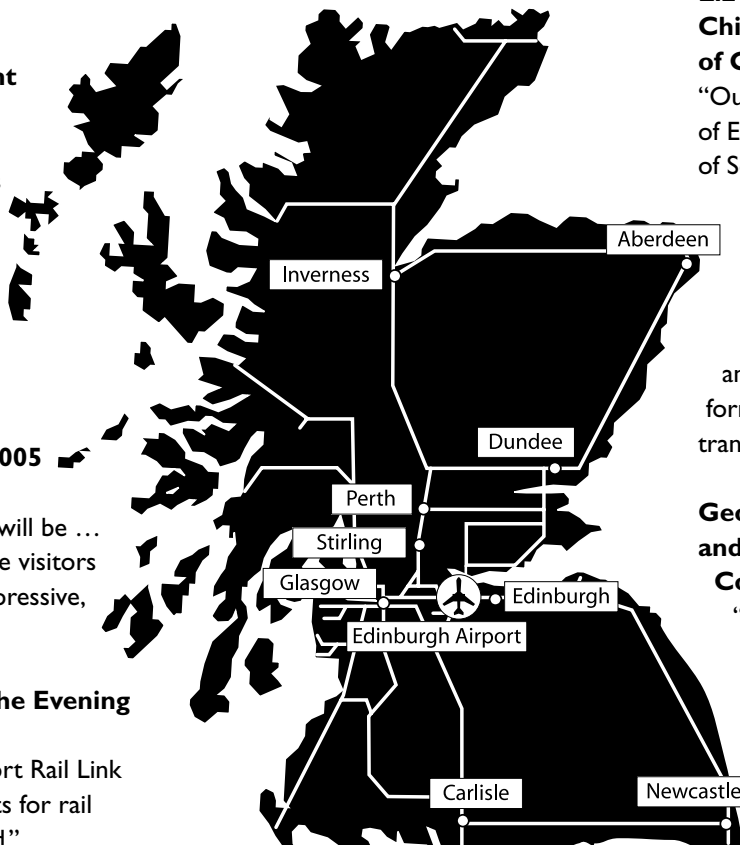
"EARL, as one of several high quality transport links to Edinburgh Airport, will result in effective connectivity, improved accessibility and a reduction in congestion"

Cockburn Association Magazine, December 2005 Edition

"The airport station itself will be ... an opportunity to welcome visitors to the country with an impressive, hi-tech first impression."

Sarah Boyack MSP, in the Evening News, 24/08/05

"The new Edinburgh Airport Rail Link will bring big improvements for rail passengers across Scotland."



Scottish Rail Network

Liz Cameron, Chief Executive of Scottish Chamber of Commerce, 08/09/05

"Our members recognise the importance of EARL to the economic competitiveness of Scotland"

Philip Riddle, Chief Executive of VisitScotland, 03/10/05

"First class communications are a vital component of Scotland's future and I believe that the EARL project will form an important part of improving our transport infrastructure for the long term."

Geoff Runcie, Chairman, Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce, 11/10/05

"We recognise the importance of EARL to the economic competitiveness of not just the Edinburgh area and the Central Belt but also to the North East of Scotland as a key strategic location within Scotland."

EARL CONSULTATION PROCESS

tie limited has been working on the EARL project since 2003, consulting, listening and preparing the EARL Bill. It took the unprecedented step of publishing the Bill in draft form over summer 2005 to allow all stakeholders to provide comment.

The EARL project team are conducting an ongoing consultation that covers the whole of Scotland, and includes relevant organisations in Scotland, the UK and Europe. The general public, technical bodies, tourism bodies, the business community, regulators, transport bodies, utilities, environmental and conservation

groups, local and national politicians and passenger groups have all had the opportunity to discuss the project and influence it.

Those directly affected by the construction of the project have also been widely consulted. Residents and landowners have played a key role in the consultation process, each involved in a sustained dialogue on potential land take, access requirements, road diversions/closures, noise, vibration and visual intrusion.

The public consultation, which ran in November and December 2004 gathered opinion from the Scottish public as a

whole, and found that:

- **83% of respondents supported the introduction of EARL**
- **84% of respondents agreed EARL was a necessity**
- **68% of respondents supported the proposed route**
- **83% of respondents stated that the project will benefit the whole of Scotland**



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