

New Trains Arriving 2020

Fact sheet 3: Things might not know about your new Merseyrail trains

Five ways your travel will be transformed by the new Merseyrail trains:

1. Disabled passengers and those with buggies, luggage and bikes will be able to get on and off without assistance, making our network the most accessible traditional rail network in the UK. The new trains will have a sliding step which will meet the platform edge, resulting in step-free access at each doorway.
2. The train saloon will be unrecognisable, in a good way! Light, bright, open carriages, no dividing doors and more spacious aisles will enable passengers to see along the whole length of the trains. There will be the same number of seats as now, but they'll be wider with better legroom for increased comfort and there will be more space if you're standing.
3. Technology is at the forefront of design with intelligent air conditioning to better cool and heat the trains, information screens and plugs and USB charging points and free on-board wifi which will work even in tunnels and underground stations.
4. The new trains will be safer, with live CCTV screens, help points where passengers can speak directly to the driver or control room and traffic light system door illumination indicating when it's safe to get on and off,
5. Journey times will be up to 10 per cent shorter – that's eight minutes off the journey between Hunts Cross and Southport.

Five things you might not know about the new Merseyrail trains:

1. Instead of being leased, as is usually the case in the UK, the new trains are being bought directly and will be owned by the people of the Liverpool City Region. This will reduce the overall cost to public purse, and means the trains can be designed with the needs of local rail users in mind.
2. The new trains will be amongst the greenest in the UK. The combination of a new lighter train, improvements to the electric drive system and ability to carry more passengers, more quickly, means up to 20 per cent energy is saved each journey.
3. The design of the new trains, along with upgrades to the track and platforms, will mean step free access on and off the trains, making it easier and safer for all passengers.. Station staff will still be available across the network to assist if required.
4. The new trains incorporate features local people have said they want to see, from intelligent air conditioning, to the seating layout and visible CCTV images within the saloon. This approach, which involved independent research, is considered 'best practice' nationally.
5. The new trains will boost the local economy by £70m each year and will create around 1,000 new jobs.

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Five facts about staffing on the new trains:

1. Merseyrail will remain one of the best staffed networks in the country.
2. All City Region stations are staffed from first to last train and passengers are, on average, only three minutes away from a station.
3. The driver will be visible through a transparent cab door and there will be a direct link between passengers and the driver? or control room.
4. While the design of the new trains proposes that the door control and dispatch of the trains will transfer to the driver from the guard, no one currently employed as a guard will lose their employment as a result of the introduction of the new fleet.
5. The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Merseyrail and the RMT Union have agreed in principle that, subject to the provision and approval of an appropriate, affordable and sustainable funding package, the new fleet of Merseyrail trains, will have a second member of staff on board the train.