

**2 December 2016**

Dear Cyclist,

As you will be well aware, the start date for the Wirral loop line track renewal work is fast approaching, with work due to begin on the 3 January 2017.

Merseyrail, along with partners Merseytravel and Network Rail, have worked hard to put in place the best alternative travel arrangements in order to minimise disruption.

Mersey Ferries remains the fastest travel option for cyclists and will be available for all passengers crossing the river with a valid rail ticket throughout the work. These services run between Seacombe, located just over a mile from Hamilton Square station, and Liverpool Pier Head.

On week days, there are three services an hour at peak times and one every hour between the peaks and at weekends. Each crossing in the peak is ten minutes, with off-peak and weekend journeys taking longer. If ferries are suspended for any reason, alternative travel arrangements will be available for customers with bikes. For more information on Mersey Ferries, visit [www.merseytravel.gov.uk](http://www.merseytravel.gov.uk)

In addition to this service and in light of recent conversations with the cycling community, I am pleased to confirm that we will be introducing a special bike bus service between Birkenhead and Liverpool throughout the work to run alongside the ferry services.

This specially adapted bus will run between Hamilton Square station in Birkenhead and Moorfields station in Liverpool, operating every hour from both stations from early morning until late night on a first come first served basis. We will publish the timetable over the coming weeks. As this service will operate via the Mersey road tunnels, passengers are advised to allow plenty of extra time for their journey.

Another option for cyclists is to leave bikes at one of the stations with secure cycle shelters. The majority of stations on the network, 56 out of a total 66, has these facilities. To make use of them, please register in advance at [Merseyrail.org/cycle](http://Merseyrail.org/cycle) and an access fob will be sent to you.

During the closure, fold-up bikes will be accepted for travel on the rail replacement buses between the Wirral and Liverpool city centre.

For all customers who live in the region, we are offering half price annual subscription on Bike & Go, our cycle hire scheme, as well as free bike rentals from Moorfields station. Subject to availability, these incentives will be available during phases 1 and 3 of the work. To register, visit [www.bikeandgo.co.uk](http://www.bikeandgo.co.uk), select the Wirral promotion and use the promo code **wirral17**.



Finally, we are committed to keeping cyclists up to speed on any further developments that will affect them. Arrangements will be monitored throughout the work and could change again, so we encourage passengers to check our website regularly at [www.merseyrail.org/trackrenewal](http://www.merseyrail.org/trackrenewal)

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and lines, positioned above the printed name.

**David O'Leary**  
**Commercial Director**