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## PRESS RELEASE

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### RAIL CONFERENCE COMES TO TAUNTON

Transport experts from around the country will be meeting in Taunton next month at a conference about how the railway network can be developed. The rail transport pressure group Railfuture has organised the event with a particular focus on how to get more freight onto the railways.

Event organiser Philip Bisatt said: 'At a time of recession it's more important than ever to plan for the future. So it's great to be meeting in Taunton, where the railway is poised to become the fast track to future prosperity. Where else can offer the prospect of 3,000 new jobs right next to the railway station?'

'We have an excellent line-up of speakers who will explain what today's railways are offering passengers and freight customers, and how the local community can get involved.'

Topics include the Southampton to West Midlands freight upgrade, freight terminal development and rail freight campaigning.

The conference is an annual event where transport experts exchange ideas on how to develop and expand the rail network. This year's is being held at The Albemarle Centre, Albemarle Road, Taunton on Saturday 3 July. Tickets for the event are £20 including a buffet lunch and refreshments. Booking details can be found at the website [www.railfuture.org.uk](http://www.railfuture.org.uk)

The full list of speakers is:

**Charles Varey** Network Rail's senior commercial scheme sponsor *Topic:* Southampton to West Midlands freight upgrade and loading gauge enhancement  
**Nick Gallop** rail consultant for Intermodality *Topic:* Freight terminal development  
**George Boyle** Railfuture *Topic:* Rail freight campaigning  
**John Bird** First Great Western *Topic:* Major projects

**Richard Burningham** *Topic: Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership*

**Keith Walton** *Topic: Severnside Community Rail Partnership*

**Notes for editors:**

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Railfuture is Britain's only completely independent voice on railway development. We are not affiliated to or sponsored by any political party, trade union, or private industry. We are funded almost entirely by our members.

Rail is a vital part of an integrated efficient transport system serving a modern, vibrant, environmentally sustainable economy. We are pro-rail but not anti-road. Railfuture maintains that investment in rail travel and rail freight is vital to the future of the UK economy and environment.

**For more information please contact:**

**Bruce Williamson, media spokesman**  
**Tel: 0117 927 2954 Mobile: 07759 557389**  
**media@railfuture.org.uk**

**[www.railfuture.org.uk](http://www.railfuture.org.uk)**

**Railfuture is on Twitter: [@Railfuture](https://twitter.com/Railfuture)**