

## **Press release – May 2026**

### **Metro networks growing in the South West**

Cornwall's Atlantic Coast Line, between Newquay and the Great Western Main Line at Par, will be the first to feel the benefits of the new Mid-Cornwall Metro when its initial phase starts with new train timetables on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May. Monday to Saturday service frequencies on the line will double to hourly, with some extra trains direct from and to Plymouth, Bristol or London - including on Sundays - until mid-September.



A GWR-operated Alstom 'Coradia' Class 175 train at Newquay. Photo credit: GWR

Railfuture's Devon & Cornwall regional branch chair, Tim Steer, commented "We applaud the exciting timetable improvements being introduced by GWR on the Newquay line, for passengers the first transformational change in the eagerly-anticipated Mid-Cornwall Metro project. We're already looking forward to the introduction of cross-county train services direct between Newquay and St. Austell, Truro and Falmouth as the next improvement for rail users, present and potential. With no need to change trains, through services cut journey times as well as enhance connectivity, add capacity and expand choice."

Tim adds "Railfuture congratulates Cornwall Council on the ambition of its vision and the persistence it has shown in promoting this scheme, including mobilising funding from outside traditional rail sources. It's an inspirational model for elsewhere, in particular the Exeter to Barnstaple line in neighbouring Devon where route modernisation to enable faster and more frequent services would most probably have a similarly transformational effect for rail travellers, and the economic fortunes of the local communities served.

"While the focus is currently on the much-improved timetable, Railfuture Devon & Cornwall notes with enthusiastic approval that other elements of the Mid-Cornwall Metro scheme - such as improvements at and around stations, Pay-As-You-Go ticketing, newer trains, and the earlier introduction of station Wi-Fi across Cornwall - should also be seen as motivational for routes elsewhere such as the North Devon Line."

Mid-Cornwall Metro is complemented elsewhere in the South West by the acclaimed Devon Metro network, and the emergence of both a Plymouth Metro concept with cross-city services including a reinstated link for Tavistock, and an Exeter Metro also with cross-city services and including a reinstated link for Bideford.

More information about Railfuture Devon & Cornwall's campaigning for the modernisation and extension of the North Devon Line can be found at [Railfuture | Bideford and Barnstaple to Exeter](https://www.railfuture.org.uk)

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