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PRESS RELEASE

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RAIL CAMPAIGNERS WELCOME CROXLEY LINK GO-AHEAD

Rail campaigners have given an enthusiastic welcome to news that the Croxley rail link has been approved by the government. Keith Dyall from *Railfuture* said "This is fantastic news. We're delighted that yet another rail project has been given the thumbs up. It's a scheme which we and our predecessor organisations have been campaigning for more than 20 years."

Two remote suburban lines which pass close to each other will be joined.

One from Watford High Street to Croxley Green, mothballed for a considerable period, and the other from Moor Park to Watford (Metropolitan) terminus in a quiet suburb, will be linked by a new rail viaduct across the Rickmansworth Road. London Underground's Metropolitan trains will be able to serve Watford High Street and Watford Junction stations.

"We see it improving the status of Watford Junction as a major interchange. It opens up a whole series of improved connection possibilities, with future services from Amersham, Chesham, and possibly Aylesbury into the centre of Watford. It also gives improved rail access to the major regional retail Harlequin Centre next to Watford High Street station, also improved access to the Croxley Business Park, the Watford Hospital and the football ground."

"We believe that this will bring increased use of the Metropolitan Line all day in both directions; it's currently concentrated in the peak hours into London."

"The scheme will also help to reduce road congestion within the town centre and also along the A412 and the A4125. We hope local bus services are improved in the Cassiobury Park area to compensate for the closure of Watford Met"

"There is zero rolling stock cost because the trains already exist, so it represents excellent value for money. This as a win-win situation all round."

"The government seems to be coming round to our way of thinking that rail is the best way to solve our transport problems."

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.

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