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Croxley Rail Link procurement gets underway

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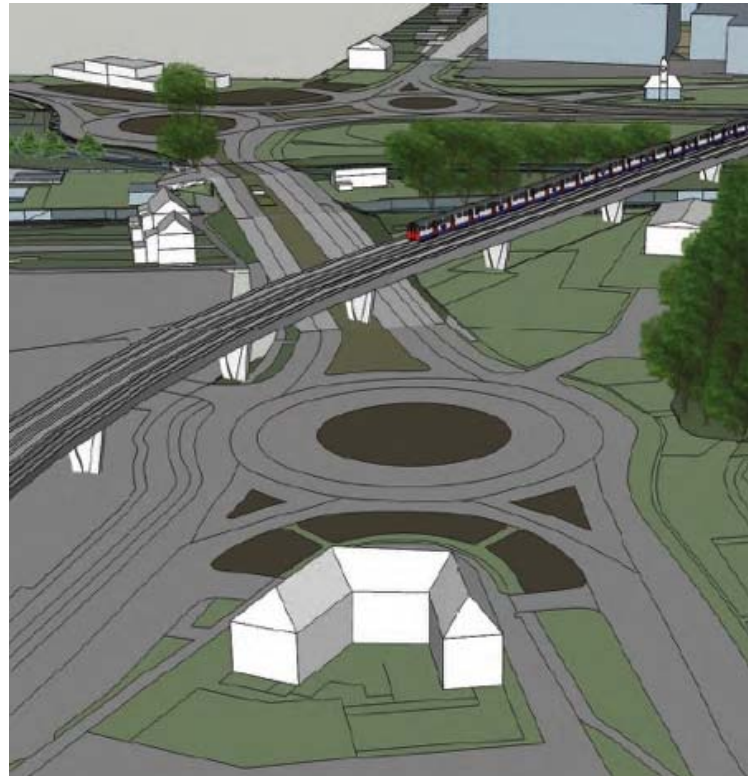
Plans to reroute part of the London Underground Metropolitan line to Watford Junction have gone out to tender after more than a decade of development.

Hertfordshire County Council, which is promoting the £116m Croxley Rail Link scheme, has invited expressions of interest in the main design and build contract which is valued at between £60m and £80m.

The job involves connecting the existing LU spur to Watford Met station with the Croxley Green to Watford Junction branch line which last carried timetabled passenger trains in the 1990s. A new viaduct will be constructed to join up the railways, creating a 4.5km route. New stations will be built at Ascot Road and Watford General Hospital. Watford Met station will close.

Also included in the contract will be the reinstatement of double track on the disused Croxley Green alignment, including a new junction with the Watford Junction to London Euston DC route at Watford High Street, work to bring the bridges, cuttings and embankments on the disused alignment into operational use and provision of a new electrical substation.

Platform extensions and track layout alterations will be required at Watford Junction



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station along with alterations to traction power, an additional Metropolitan line train to deliver the extended services, and possible alterations to signalling - still to be confirmed.

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Herts intends to split the scope of the contract into two parts. Stage one will allow the chosen bidder and with producing an initial target cost for the construction phase. Stage two will provide for the completion of commissioning and handover of the scheme based on a target cost with pain-gain share arrangement. It is subject to assurance procedures conducted by a separate independent body to be appointed by the court.

Expressions of interest are due in by 7 June 2012. After featuring in transport investment plans by London Livingstone (TB 0461), the Croxley Rail Link scheme finally secured government funding in December 2011.

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