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Tata costs St Andrews rail reopening at £71m

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Bringing train services back to St Andrews in Fife would cost £71m according to the findings of a new study.

A report by Tata Steel Projects, commissioned by the St Andrews Rail Link Campaign (Starlink), proposes an hourly service to Edinburgh, including stops at Cupar, Dunfermline and the planned Edinburgh Gateway station for the city airport, as well as trains to Dundee.

St Andrews, with a population of 17,000, is one of the largest towns in Scotland without a railway station and is understood to be the only university town or city in the country not on the rail network.

Tata recommends a five mile spur between St Andrews and the East Coast Main Line, which it claims would offer faster journey times than road, but has suggested using a more direct route to the ECML than the former railway which closed in 1969.

Starlink convenor Jane Ann Liston said: "At long last a feasibility study has been done into how to connect St Andrews to the railway and it's all very exciting. The findings are that it's possible and there's a demand for it."

A consultation on the study report is now underway after which the case for proceeding with the project will be passed to Transport Scotland.

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