



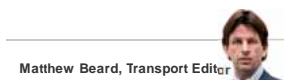
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Mayor's rail takeover stopped in its tracks

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17 June 2013

The Mayor has lost his battle to take control of a key commuter rail service after political opposition to the move.

His bid to run Southeastern services from Kent has been rejected by the Department for Transport, rail industry sources have told the Standard.

Boris Johnson had insisted that bringing the services under Transport for London's control would have eased overcrowding and improved reliability. Under the plan, TfL would have operated the "metro" routes on the Southeastern line — those within London's boundaries.

But Kent council leader Paul Carter objected, saying the plans were "totally unacceptable" and would have prioritised London commuters at the expense of its own residents.

Mike Brown, managing director of London Underground and Rail, said today that TfL would focus efforts instead on taking over the West Anglia route out of Liverpool Street station. He said: "We continue to make the case for greater control over suburban rail services in London. We believe we can significantly improve the rail service and station facilities, as we have on London Overground, for customers within the Greater London boundary and beyond."

The Mayor argues that if he is awarded the West Anglia franchise, he could simplify ticketing, provide more frequent off-peak services and extend train lengths.

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BorisWatch 4 days ago

"Given that new Thameslink trains may not fit tunnels into Moorgate "

Not sure anything would fit into Moorgate, since they've extended the platforms at Farringdon over the former line. Are you quite well?

Incidentally, why is the above nonsense allowed when my rather more pertinent first one wasn't? Censorship at work?

Reply [2 replies](#)

-1



Anonymous 3 days ago

GREAT NORTHERN TUNNELS AT MOORGATE - line south from Finsbury Park Station via Highbury and Islington, Essex Road, Old Street and Moorgate (where disaster happened when train failed to stop !).

Seems you need to learn London !

Reply [1 reply](#)

+1



Anonymous 3 days ago

Moorgate typo!

0



Anonymous 4 days ago

Given that new Thameslink trains may not fit tunnels into Moorgate then TFL should make a bid for inner suburban services on Great Northern line that operate from Moorgate thus returning this route to TFL control together with stations .

Tests to see if Overground trains would fit these tunnels need to be carried out as replacement for class 313 trains that are now 40 years old and thus need replacement. If Overground trains are to large then S Stock trains might prove useful replacements if they can be built for dual voltage operation?

As for Kent well wonder how many of these Councilors actually use railways ?

We could always reappoint Connex to South Eastern Trains !

Reply

+1

BorisWatch 4 days ago

You see, all the posturing, all the PR stunts, all the demonstrably effective management of publicly accountable Overground coupled with the demonstrably crap performance of privatised unaccountable southeastern stymied by one provincial council leader kicking up a fuss. Shows quite how effective a political operator the Mayor really is, I suppose.

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