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Liberal Democrat conference



Part-time season tickets for rail commuters to be trialled

Cheaper season tickets for travel three to four days a week revealed by transport minister Norman Baker

Gwyn Topham, transport correspondent
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New 'shoulder' fares on the cusp of rush hour will also be tested in an attempt to smooth out demand between peak and off-peak trains. Photograph: Johnny Green/PA

Part-time rail commuters will be able to buy cheaper season tickets for travel three to four days a week in a trial scheme announced by the transport minister, Norman Baker.

The scheme, allowing part-time workers to benefit from similar discounts on monthly

and annual passes, would be trialled on a major London commuter line next year. New "shoulder" fares on the cusp of rush hour will also be tested in an attempt to smooth out demand between peak and off-peak trains.

Baker, who disclosed the scheme ahead of a Liberal Democrat conference fringe meeting, said: "Part-time workers and those who sometimes work from home have long complained they have to pay the full price for season tickets even though they do not get the full benefit. Under this pilot we will look at how we can give them a better deal and also reward those commuters who avoid the busiest rush-hour services."

The Department for Transport said it would finalise the details of the trial with the train operator that successfully bids to run it. Rail companies have yet to reach agreement with ministers over how fares could be made fairer, with a promised fares and ticketing review led by Baker having been postponed until the autumn.



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