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The latest rail news on Wednesday, 22nd September 2021

Sir Keith Williams, Chair of the Williams Rail Review and former boss of British Airways, has warned that it's now or never to radically overhaul and simplify Britain's confusing and outdated rail fares system.

Speaking at an industry event organised by thinktank the Institute for Government and co-hosted by the Rail Delivery Group, fares reform was one of the key issues discussed.

Williams stressed that progress on fares is crucial in demonstrating to passengers that the government is starting to make changes heralded in the plan for rail white paper, released in June.

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The creation of a new railway connection directly linking Oxford and Cambridge has moved a step closer with the appointment of Arcadis as Commercial Partner to the East West Rail Company.

The role will focus on developing the business case and submitting the application for a Development Consent Order to build the next stage of the rail link.

[Click here for more details.](#)

The Scottish Government has announced plans to extend the current Emergency Measures Agreements (EMAs) for the ScotRail and Caledonian Sleeper franchises.

The EMAs which were put in place in March 2021 will now be in place until December 2021.

[Click here for more details.](#)

Network Rail has substantially completed its first key phase of work to create a new entrance at Bristol Temple Meads, providing passengers with a gateway to the east of the city and the new Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone.

Work on this first part of the £20 million West of England Combined Authority-funded project took place simultaneously with the upgrade to Bristol East Junction.

Network Rail's engineers and contractors BAM Nuttall installed 18 concrete piles to a depth of over 20 metres into the ground under platform 15 to support the new structure.

Photo credit: Network Rail