

## In The News | 7th September 2021 | Latest Rail News

September 7, 2021



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The latest rail news on Tuesday, 7th September 2021

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Network Rail has completed major signalling work on a new section of track north of Peterborough, ready for freight trains to dive underneath the East Coast Main Line, helping to cut congestion and increase capacity.

Last weekend engineers commissioned the signalling system, which will allow trains to safely run on the two new tracks, marking a major milestone in the final stage of the project, part of the £1.2billion East Coast Upgrade.

Work began onsite at Werrington in Summer 2018 and the ground-breaking 11,000-tonne tunnel – which was built onsite as trains continued running on the East Coast Main Line – was pushed into place using innovative construction techniques in January 2021.

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Monday morning was the busiest rush hour on the Tube since the first national lockdown, according to Transport for London (TfL).

An article on the BBC says figures showed 831,000 taps in to the Tube network between 7am and 10am, the highest since March 2020.

There were 860,000 registered passengers on buses according to TfL – up 40% compared to last week.

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Network Rail has awarded a contract to a consortium led by Thales Ground Transportation Systems Ltd to develop and trial Fibre Optic Acoustic Sensing (FOAS) technology that will support improvements in safety and performance on the railway.

FOAS technology will be enriched with data fusion to enhance the 'listening' capabilities of optical fibres, of which there are already around 20,000km running alongside Britain's railways.

The implementation of this technology – effectively creating a virtual microphone every few metres – has the potential to enhance remote condition monitoring of assets and provide valuable data to improve train performance and reduce disruption for passengers.

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Railtex and Infrarail is underway at Birmingham's NEC – the first time the exhibitions have taken place since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The three-day event sees two of the UK's most important events in the rail calendar come together for the first time for companies serving all aspects of the infrastructure and rolling stock sectors present their products and services, and meet new and existing customers.

*Photo credit: Network Rail*