

High speed rail would nearly double trains to London

High speed rail would nearly double the number of trains from MK to London, a city MP was delighted to hear.

The proposed High Speed 2 line would specifically ease overcrowding on the West Coast Main Line, which serves the city, increasing the direct services to the capital from 89 a day to 172, research has shown.

Mark Lancaster, MP for Milton Keynes North, welcomed the comments of transport secretary Philip Hammond who singled out Milton Keynes as the ultimate beneficiary of such a scheme.

Mr Hammond said: "Our proposed new high speed rail network would free up a huge amount of space on current railways for more trains to operate... Passengers in some towns like Milton Keynes could see a near doubling in the number of trains from their station to London because of HS2."

Mr Lancaster hopes that the current consultation, which closes in July, will ensure that the most suitable route is chosen.

He added: "This research is fantastic news for the commuters of Milton Keynes, who literally cannot stand having to stand for their journey to work every single day, while paying thousands of pounds for the privilege. It is great to see the figures reinforcing what we have been told about HS2. It's about time Milton Keynes got a better deal, but equally the route itself needs to be the right one for the country."