



The Times

August 2012

A journal of transport timetable history and analysis



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Inside: Riding the “Mentaliner”

Frankston difficulties

Dùn Èideann am Glaschu ceathrar dol

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On the front cover

The timetables of self-propelled trains of very different provenances are reviewed this month— Amtrak's silver-quick, one-off, schedule for the Metroliner of 1969 and Scotrail's ubiquitous services that thread the Glasgow-Edinburgh glacially-carved lowlands along 4 different routes. The Metroliner time out of New York has never been beaten; Scotrail's DMUs are anything but glacial.

Rossum's Universal Robots (R.U.R.) A play by Karel Čapek (1923), translated from the Czech by David Wyllie (2005). The play is most famous for popularizing worldwide the Czech word 'robot' (slave/worker).

Act One [...]

Dr. Gall: You see, there's a ship on its way here now. An ordinary mail boat and right on the time it says in the timetable. It will be dropping anchor at exactly eleven-thirty.

Domin: Punctuality is a wonderful thing, lads. There's nothing that gladdens your soul more than punctuality. Punctuality means order in the world. (raises glass)- To punctuality!

Helena: So... that means... that everything's alright?

Domin: Nearly everything. I think they've cut the cable. It's only if the timetable is operating again.

Hallemeier: If the timetable is operating again, then human laws are operating again, and God's laws are operating again and the laws of the universe are operating again and everything is operating that should be operating. The timetable means more than the Bible, more than Homer, more the anything ever written by Kant. The timetable is the most perfect product of the human soul. Helena, I'll have another little drink.

-Thanks to Brendan Whyte for bringing our attention to this.

Contributors <i>The Times</i>	Brendan Whyte, Geoff Lambert, Rod Milne, Robert Henderson, Jim Wells, Duncan MacAuslan welcomes articles and letters. Send paper manuscripts or word-processor files on disk or <i>via</i> e-mail to the editor at the address below. Illustrations should be submitted as clean sharp photocopies on white paper or scanned GIF or TIF format images with at least 300 dpi resolution on disk or <i>via</i> e-mail.
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A pair of moments

Submitted by **GEOFF LAMBERT**, with help from Wikipedia

OK, folks—you all hang on real tight now. We'll be leaving in a pair of moments."

Thus was our introduction to Amtrak's New York—Washington *Metroliner*, back in 1975.

At the New York Medical Center's Department of Psychiatry where I worked at the time, the train was known colloquially by the Medics as the "Mentaliner", for the number of psychiatric cases who fled Washington for New York on it. But that was OK—we were headed the *other* way.

The Metroliner was a premium express train service between Washington, D.C. and New York City in the United States from 1969 to 2006. It was first operated by Penn Central Transportation, successor to the Pennsylvania Railroad, and later by Amtrak.

Originally operated with self-powered electric multiple unit cars, which were later replaced with locomotive-hauled train-sets, the train offered reserved business-class and first-class seating. A trip between New York's Pennsylvania Station and Washington, D.C.'s Union Station took approximately 3 hours.

Amtrak later replaced Metroliner service with high-speed (150 mph or 240 km/h) *Acela Express* train-sets. Metroliner service was discontinued on 27 October 2006.

The initial schedules included one train daily in each direction between Washington and New York. A second train per day in each direction was soon added; non-stop service between Washington and New York was added on April 2, 1969. Successful from the beginning, the Metroliner remained under Penn Central operation until the creation of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (*Amtrak*) in 1971.

The earliest timetable I can find for the Metroliner is in my Penn Central Employee Time Table (ETT) for 27-Apr-1969, about 3 weeks after the Metroliner had been introduced. The ETT has been modified by pasting-in a "Lick'em and Stick'em" from *General Order 304*, effective 2-Jun-1969. Holding the page up to the light, one can discern that the original schedule times (for train 2-131) were 20 min earlier than that specified in GO304.

The meaning of the ☒ symbol at the top of the column is not given, but it is probably code for "non-stop". It was the only southbound train so marked in the book and was the only train in the 2000 number series. Its counterpart, Northbound 2004, was also introduced with GO304 and had similar timings. It may perhaps have been an early



WESTWARD – SOUTHWARD								215
FIRST CLASS								
☒ 201 Daily Ex. Sat. & Sun.	● 3853 Saturday Only	● 4241 Sunday Only	☒ 2005 Daily Ex. Sat. & Sun.	† ● 3607 Daily Ex. Sat. & Sun.	25 Daily	† ● 3705 Daily Ex. Sat. & Sun.	● 3821 Saturday Only	
A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	
S 7.00	S 7.00	S 7.05	S 7.30	S 7.22	S 7.35	S 7.39	S 7.51	
7.12	7.11	7.17	7.38	7.34	7.47	7.51	8.03	
S 7.15	S 7.14	S 7.20	7.40	S 7.37	# 7.53	S 7.54	S 8.06	
7.18	7.17	7.23		S 7.39	7.40	7.56	8.09	
				S 7.43			S 8.12	
	S 7.22	S 7.28		S 7.47		S 8.02	S 8.16	
	7.22	7.23	7.30	7.49	8.00	8.03	8.18	
	S 7.27	S 7.34		S 7.53			S 8.22	
				S 7.56				
	S 7.31	S 7.38		S 7.59		S 8.10	S 8.28	
	7.26	7.32	7.39	7.47	8.00	8.04	8.11	8.30
				S 8.03				
		MU	N.Y. Region 6.0.304 Page 215 Col. 4	S 8.06		MU	MU	
				8.11				
				S 8.14				
				S 8.18				
		S 7.43				F 8.14		
	7.31	S 7.38	S 7.47	MU	8.09	S 8.17	S 8.35	
		S 7.51				S 8.21	S 8.38	
		S 7.55				S 8.25		
	S 7.44	S 7.55				S 8.29	S 8.46	
	7.37	7.46	7.55		8.14		8.49	
		S 7.59				S 8.33		
	7.45	7.53					8.58	
S 7.51	S 7.58	S 7.58					S 9.05	
	7.58	8.04		8.05		8.32	9.13	
S 8.01	S 8.08		8.06		S 8.35		S 9.16	
A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	

Back to Kywong – boys will be boys...will watch trains

Letters about trainspotting from **ROD MILNE** *and* **ROBERT HENDERSON**

I find your two mags. often of interest and found the little piece on the Kywong trip in 1950 fascinating.

I think you will find the esteemed gentleman who did that run was the late and sorely missed Ken Winney.

Photos of his of that trip in 1950 have been published in the past, so he may be the source or another who travelled with him.

Those southern NSW branch lines were fascinating and it is not a well known fact that when they were dieselised in 1962, only one 48 class loco was needed to run all the services. It started off the working week Monday morning at Culcairn, running the weekly job over to Holbrook before coming back to Culcairn and then doing the run to Corowa back. The next two days saw runs to Oaklands and Humula as required, while Thursday's workings for that loco comprised a morning run to Corowa and back and then later than

evening a weekly goods train to Rand and back in the hours of darkness. Friday finished the week with a return goods train up the long branch to Tumberumba and back. The use of the single loco involved many placement runs comprising the loco and van to position itself at each junction for the branch run. For instance, on Thursday, the 48 and van off the train from Corowa worked up to Henty to do the weekly Rand goods train.

I liked the photos of Hobart suburban trains particularly the one of Y4 on the Cadbury train clearly coming back off the branch at Claremont in the morning.

Rod Milne

Albert Isaacs' letter in the July 2012 issue of The Times about keeping times books reminded of when my wife Katrina and I travelled by train to Canberra for the 1997 AGM of the AATTC.

In the booked seat train, sitting coincidentally immediately behind us were two other members going to the same event. And they were recording the times of the train.

Katrina never fails to remind me from time to time of an incident that occurred on that journey. When the train stopped at either Bungendore or Tarago (I cannot quite remember which), these two gentlemen were outspokenly critical of the driver or observer taking what they considered an inordinate length of time to detrain and appear to use the lavatory facilities on the station. I have wondered ever since whether details such as that were actually recorded in their so-called "times" books.

Robert Henderson



Let's do it for Frankston

JIM WELLS

Services on the Frankston, Dandenong and Ringwood lines in Melbourne on weekends day time have been improved.

In Frankston's case this means a train every 10 min which by any standard is a good service for off peak. This service has been operating Mon – Fri for a few months now.

Here's the route map (right, upper) and a sample of the weekday timetable (right, lower).

It is my contention that this service pattern is not optimal for the market.

The key problem is slowness. Sixty two minutes to cover 42.7 km is hardly groundbreaking stuff. The trains from Geelong—about 75 km—are generally quicker.

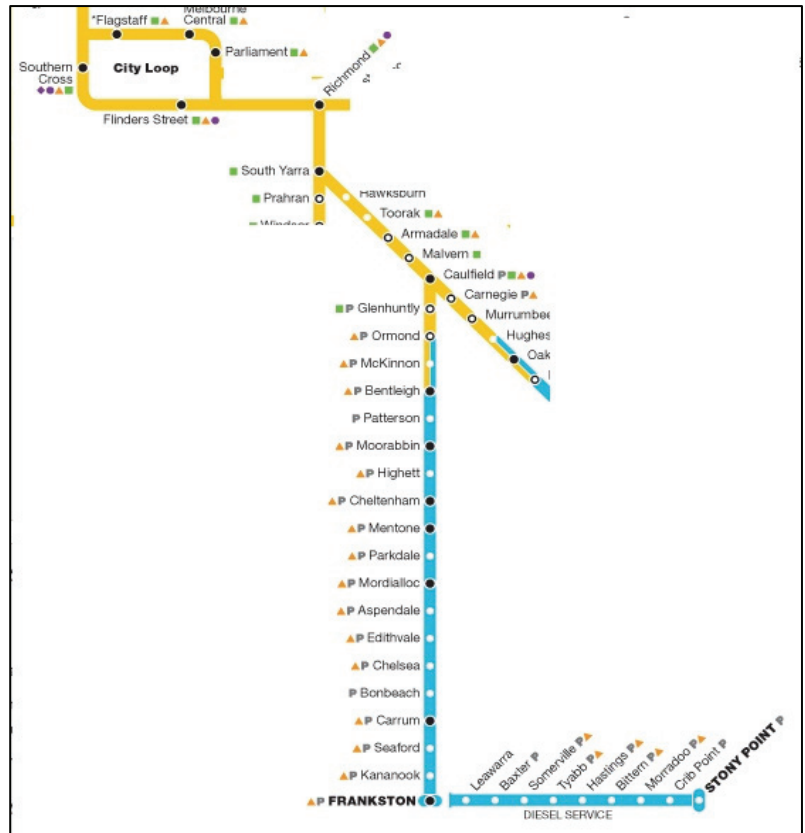
The problem is not poor track alignment. Yes, there are one or two issues such as the very sharp curve on the down side of South Yarra and the tramway crossing at Glenhuntly (p8, top right), but quite high speeds can be achieved over much of the route.

The problem is the number of intermediate stops. Twenty four by my count. It is my contention that any rail journey that has more than about twelve or fifteen stops becomes irritating and it doesn't matter whether the journey is a suburban one or quite a long distance one (see box, p9). It helps with a suburban one if the operation is 'snappy', short dwell times and smooth but high acceleration and braking. Melbourne's trains aren't too bad in this respect.

The traditional solution to this problem is to have short 'terminators' that stop all stations so that long distance trains can run non stop in the area served by the short distance trains. This is the pattern that operates in the peak hour; indeed use is made of the third track between Moorabbin and Caulfield to allow fast trains to overtake slower ones.

The difficulty is the transfer problem – someone travelling from say Ormond to say Bonbeach would have to change trains somewhere.

A service out of Flinders St with three trains an hour stopping all stations to Cheltenham and three trains to Frankston semi fast to Cheltenham would save a train set or two so would be more economic than the six all the way to Frankston. If the authorities aren't too concerned about cost then we could have four trains an hour on each service. This would integrate better with the Dandenong line four an hour ser-



Wheelchair Accessible Services	♿	♿	♿
Morning (am) / Afternoon (pm)	am	am	am
Frankston Station (Frankston)	10:22	-	10:32
Kananook Station (Seaford)	10:24	-	10:34
Seaford Station (Seaford)	10:27	-	10:37
Carrum Station (Carrum)	10:31	-	10:41
Bonbeach Station (Bonbeach)	10:33	-	10:43
Chelsea Station (Chelsea)	10:35	-	10:45
Edithvale Station (Edithvale)	10:37	-	10:47
Aspendale Station (Aspendale)	10:39	-	10:49
Mordialloc Station (Mordialloc)	10:42	-	10:52
Parkdale Station (Parkdale)	10:45	-	10:55
Mentone Station (Mentone)	10:47	-	10:57
Cheltenham Station (Cheltenham)	10:49	-	10:59
Highett Station (Highett)	10:52	-	11:02
Moorabbin Station (Moorabbin)	10:54	-	11:04
Patterson Station (Bentleigh)	10:56	-	11:06
Bentleigh Station (Bentleigh)	10:58	-	11:08
McKinnon Station (McKinnon)	11:00	-	11:10
Ormond Station (Ormond)	11:01	-	11:11
Glenhuntly Station (Glen Huntly)	11:03	-	11:13
Caulfield Station (Caulfield East)	11:07	11:17	11:17
Malvern Station (Malvern)	11:09	11:19	11:19
Armadale Station (Armadale)	11:11		11:21
Toorak Station (Armadale)	11:13		11:23
Hawksburn Station (South Yarra)	11:15		11:25
South Yarra Station (South Yarra)	11:17	11:24	11:27
Richmond Station (Richmond)	11:20	11:27	11:30
Parliament Station (Melbourne City)		11:30	
Melbourne Central Station (Melbourne City)		11:32	
Flagstaff Station (Melbourne City)		11:34	
Southern Cross Station (Melbourne City)		11:36	
Flinders Street Station (Melbourne City)	ARR	11:24	11:40
			11:34

vice. A compromise might be four an hour to Cheltenham; two beyond.

This is the service pattern on Sydney's East Hills line – it works well.

One accepts that Cheltenham or Mordialloc may not be suitable as turn back stations. Ideally a turn back station on a busy two track railway needs a turn back road between the two running lines. The turn back road may or may not have a platform; there are advantages for passengers interchanging if the turn back road does not have a platform.

To solve this problem we need detailed origin–destination data. With the sort of ticketing data Melbourne used to have, that data would be difficult to come by, but one suspects that most off peak travel is CBD-oriented. Caulfield has a uni. campus and there is a major shopping centre, Southland, near Cheltenham.

The good burghers of such delightful places as Bonbeach and Aspendale would lose their “no need for a timetable” frequency. This really is only relevant if there is a lot of local traffic in the area, such as going from Bonbeach to Aspendale.

This sort of traffic is often better catered for by bus. A bus operates at a fraction of the cost of a train. Yes, in Victoria trains are single manned, as are buses, but the killer for trains is maintenance. A frequent bus service along the parallel Nepean Highway would be appropriate, a major side benefit being service to places distant from the railway stations.

The current 706 operates on the back road from Mordialloc to Chelsea only three times a day (wow!) and the 708 (Hampton – Carrum) serves the interior areas away from the railway half hourly. So amplification would be required.

However, I believe that what's really needed is to give Frankston itself a very fast service at least once an hour.

Frankston is a major suburb and rail head for most of the Mornington Peninsula. The population of the Mornington Peninsula Shire (2006) was 148,394 (Wiki.) and the City of Frankston had a similar number.

Frankston is the commencing point for the diesel service to Stony Point and has a major bus interchange.

A fast service from Frankston stopping only at Caulfield should reach Flinders St in no more than 40 minutes.

So what are the issues associated with this, apart from finding additional train sets to run the service?

The first is a political one. Yes, it might be nice for Frankston but there would be an immediate clamour for similar services to Lilydale, Dandenong, Eltham – who



Source: Google Maps

knows where else? This would be difficult to handle politically quite apart from operationally.

Depending on the pattern of ordinary services as discussed above it may not be possible to 'path' such a service. Use of the third track south of Caulfield would almost certainly be necessary; in effect this track would become a single line with alternate trains running in opposite directions. If things go astray it might get messy and integration with peak services may be difficult. Timetablers like to have 'robustness'.

With the introduction of the 10 minute service to Dandenong V/Line Gippsland services running non stop or one stop Caulfield to Dandenong are now quite slow. For example train 8413 to Bairnsdale on Saturdays leaves Caulfield at 12:13 pm, five minutes after the preceding suburban train and dawdles along to reach Dandenong three minutes after it – 12:39, say arrival 12:38. This is a speed of just 47 km/h. The road is straight and near level. On a

well managed railway the average should be at least double that.

Frankston station, like suburban stations generally, are not designed to handle a very large number of exiting passengers. How large is very large? It may be possible to enlarge the platform exits and ease the flow of people out to the street. Capacity limitations may be a problem with the bus interchange.

One envisages the Frankston expresses running at high speed along the strip between Mordialloc and Carrum. This is an interesting railway as it runs right alongside a major road on the western side and often a minor road on the eastern. At most of the stations there is a boom barrier controlled level crossing and traffic lights on the roads. What a mess! Below is a Google view of Chelsea; the station can be seen on the right.

It is understood that the railway has a technique of adjusting boom barrier times depending on the stopping pattern of trains.



Nevertheless there may be concern about trains operating through these stations at high speed.

It would not be possible without major

track amplification to run an express service in peak hour. This would severely detract from the overall benefit of the arrangement.

Let's hope the Victorians review this situation and use their scarce resources more effectively.

How many stops should suburban train services have?

Australian railways are notorious for having suburban services with a large number of stops. Frankston is mentioned above – 24 intermediate stops, Belgrave likewise if one doesn't include East Richmond. Hurstbridge has 22; Pakenham 25 including all stations South Yarra to Malvern.

In **Sydney** the distances are typically somewhat greater and with the exception of Berowra services (21 stops from Town Hall) and Liverpool via Bankstown (24), all long distance trains skip at least two but normally more stations. For real tedium try Campbelltown via Granville – varies, 34 stops typical although this is a little unfair as almost all passengers from Glenfield south will use the alternate East Hills route to access the City. Richmond is almost a country service as the distance is greater than 70 km – 25 stops.

Brisbane has Ipswich with 21 intermediate stops, Caboolture 22 and some of the other lines also have a large number of stops. It helps in Brisbane that the operation is 'snappy'.

Adelaide – Gawler Central 24, Noarlunga Centre – varies 9 is typical. This line has off peak short working from Brighton.

Perth – none exceeds fifteen from a quick look.–

I did a quick survey of **London** suburban (National Rail) routes and couldn't find any with more than fifteen stops. These services typically don't serve inner areas to any great extent. Based on the 1996 timetable (it wouldn't have changed much) here's a sample (off peak only – M-F): Chingford 7, Gidea Park 9, Southminster 14, Welwyn Garden City 14, Luton 9, Slough 8, Guildford 8, and Orpington 11.

It's true that some of the **London Transport** train services have many stops. Piccadilly Line services have 19 intermediate stops to reach Heathrow (T5) from Piccadilly Circus

Much the same situation exists in **New York**. "Local" services on the subway can be very tedious but there are plenty of Express ones on main routes.

Let's look at the "normal" railways. Port Washington (**LIRR**) – 11 intermediate stops, Babylon – 17 (all stops), Port Jervis – 24 (long distance), Raritan (**NJT**) – 11.

And now, what about **Paris**? Having landed at *Charles-de-Gaulle* airport Terminal 2 – how many stops to Chatelet on RER Line B? There's a mix of fast and slow trains – the former has two intermediate stops, the latter 11. When these trains continue to the south side of Paris the number of stops is reasonable.

The difficulty here is drawing the line between suburban service and regional ones. The latter should not have any more stops as they should run express through inner suburban areas.



Frankston station– image courtesy *Railpage*®. Photo by Andy-roo64

Dùn Èideann am Glaschu ceathrar dol.

By Duncan MacAuslan

Since 12 December 2010 the two main Scottish cities, Edinburgh and Glasgow, have been connected by no fewer than four rail routes:

The E&G - by Falkirk High.

The Caley by Carstairs.

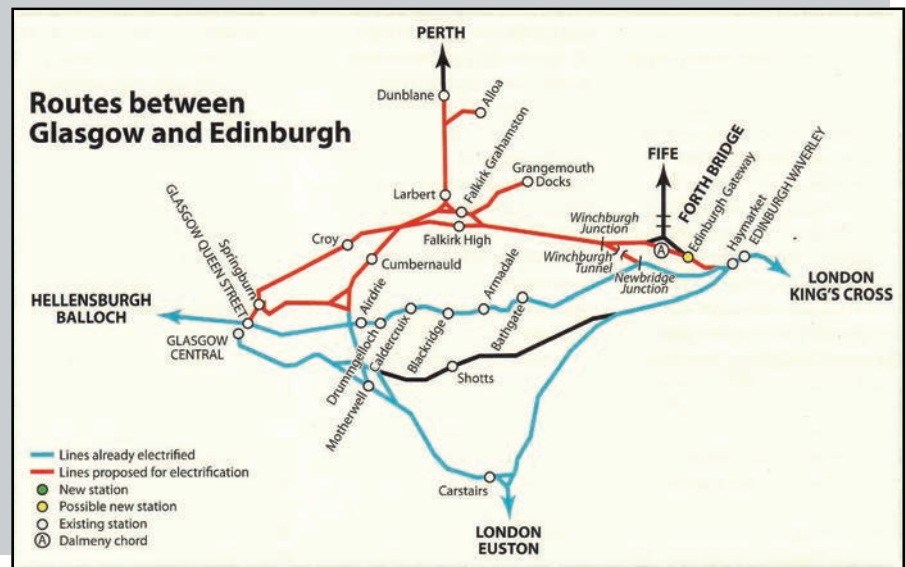
Monklands—by Airdrie and Bathgate.

Across the moors – by Shotts.

This came about with the reopening, after a 56 year hiatus, of the line between Airdrie and Bathgate which had been closed in January 1956 and the track lifted from February 1982.

All trains within Scotland are branded **ScotRail Scotland's Railway** and operated by the First Group of companies. Scottish Gaelic is further used to distinguish the brand from other operators from England and Wales operators. Many coaches are branded ScotRail Rìleina h-Alba and for many places both English and Gaelic names are shown on signage and maps. For example Glasgow's Queen Street station becomes Sràidna Banrighinn whilst Falkirk High is Bràighna h-Eaglaise Brice. The title of this article translates, I think to Edinburgh to Glasgow Four Ways. That very few Scots speak the Gaelic is not an issue.

ScotRail's timetables are published in



three sizes: A5 booklets; 9cm by 17.2cm stapled booklets and sheets folded to A7 pocket sized. There are twenty different timetables for Scotland plus Caledonian Sleepers and books for other operators such as East Coast, Cross Country and Virgin Trains.

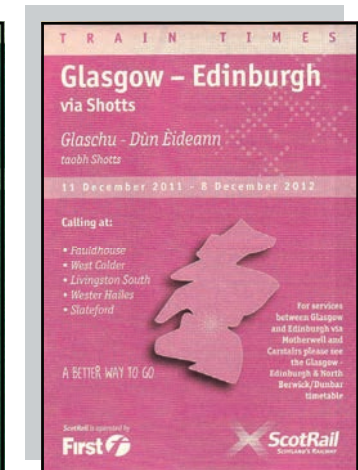
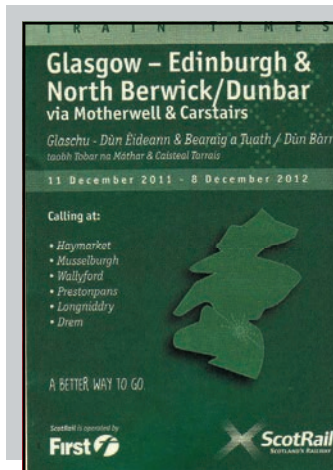
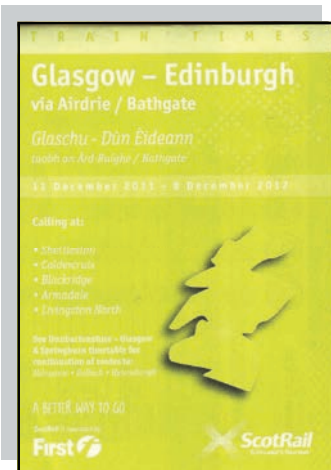
The four timetables referred to in this article are sheets folded to A7. The covers are red for Falkirk High, dark green for Carstairs, pale green for Airdrie/Bathgate and pink for Shotts.

The E & G

This is the main line and the oldest

route. The Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway opened on 21 February 1842 from Glasgow Queen Street to Edinburgh Haymarket and was later extended east to meet the North British Railway at Edinburgh Waverley. The line accesses Queen Street by the famous Cowliars Incline. Earlier this year plans were announced to electrify the line and reduce the journey time by 10 minutes.

The current red covered timetable provides a very intense four trains an hour service, Mondays to Saturdays, between 06:30 and 19:30. There's an early train at 05:55 and after 19:30





trains run half hourly until 23:30. On Sundays the service is hourly until 12:30, half-hourly until 21:30 and then hourly. The trip time is usually 50 minutes.

There are two stopping patterns during the weekdays. All trains, both ways, stop at Haymarket and Falkirk High. Trains on the hour and half-hour also stop at Croy. Here passengers from Edinburgh can, after a 10 minute wait change to the trains from Stirling or Alloa to get to Lenzie and Bishopbriggs. Trains at quarter to and quarter past also stop at Linlithgow and Polmont. Similarly trains from Glasgow offer connection at Croy from Bishopbriggs and Lenzie.

This pattern continues in the evening and Sundays on the hour to Croy and half hour at Polmont with all trains stopping at Linlithgow.

Class 170/4 TurbostarDMUs are used on this line in six car formations; each set providing 400 seats.

The Caley

The Caledonian Railway opened 15 Feb 1848 as a main line from Carlisle to Carstairs with branches from there to Glasgow Central and Edinburgh Princes Street. Keen to get a share of the Edinburgh and Glasgow—later North British—traffic they included a chord at Carstairs allowing cross country services. There's still an irregular service provided to this day, despite the significantly longer journey time. Edinburgh's Princes Street station closed in 1965 and trains were diverted to Waverley.

This line was electrified as part of the West Coast Main Line. Some trains continue to North Berwick on

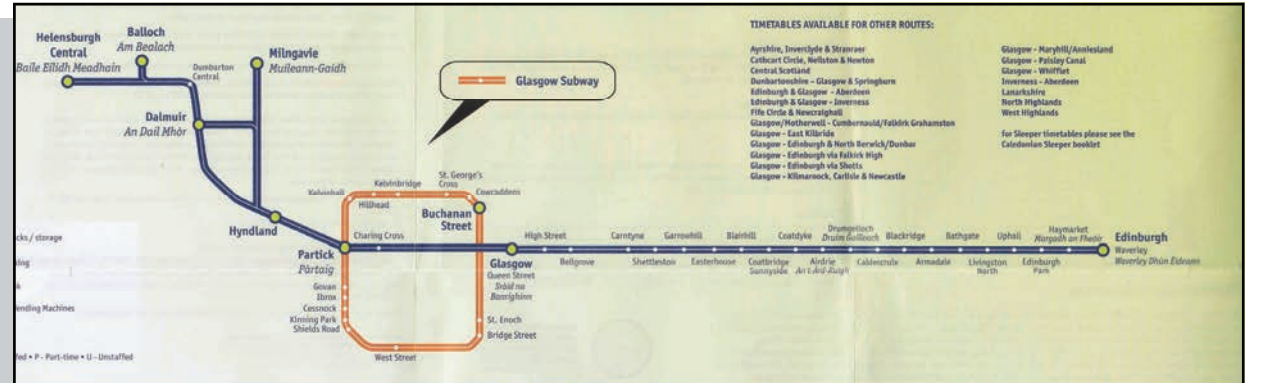
Table 66 Edinburgh, Bathgate, Airdrie, Coatbridge and Bothwell to Glasgow

WEEKDAYS ONLY

Station	Edin	Bath	Airdrie	Coatbridge	Bothwell	Alloa	Stirling	Falkirk	Glasgow
Edinburgh (Waverley) lev.	7:57								
Haymarket	8:23								
Trinity	8:35								
Bathgate (Upper) arr.		8:55							
Bathgate (Upper) lev.		9:11							
Armasdale		9:23							
Westonrae (for Harthill)		9:35							
Caldercraigs		9:47							
Charleston (Lanarkshire)		10:00							
Airdrie		10:12	10:19						
Coatbridge		10:24	10:31	10:38					
Coatbridge (Sunrise)		10:36	10:43	10:50					
Blairhill/Gartsherrie lev.		10:48	10:55	11:02					
Easthouse		11:00	11:07	11:14					
Garrowhill (Halt)		11:12	11:19	11:26					
Bothwell		11:24	11:31	11:38					
Uddington (East)		11:36	11:43	11:50					
Uddington (West)		11:48	11:55	12:02					
Caldercraigs (Halt)		12:00	12:07	12:14					
Alloa		12:12	12:19	12:26					
Stirling		12:24	12:31	12:38					
Falkirk		12:36	12:43	12:50					
Glasgow		12:48	12:55	13:02					

WEEKDAYS ONLY

Station	Edin	Bath	Airdrie	Coatbridge	Bothwell	Alloa	Stirling	Falkirk	Glasgow
Edinburgh (Waverley) lev.	7:57								
Haymarket	8:23								
Trinity	8:35								
Bathgate (Upper) arr.		8:55							
Bathgate (Upper) lev.		9:11							
Armasdale		9:23							
Westonrae (for Harthill)		9:35							
Caldercraigs		9:47							
Charleston (Lanarkshire)		10:00							
Airdrie		10:12	10:19						
Coatbridge		10:24	10:31	10:38					
Coatbridge (Sunrise)		10:36	10:43	10:50					
Blairhill/Gartsherrie lev.		10:48	10:55	11:02					
Easthouse		11:00	11:07	11:14					
Garrowhill (Halt)		11:12	11:19	11:26					
Bothwell		11:24	11:31	11:38					
Uddington (East)		11:36	11:43	11:50					
Uddington (West)		11:48	11:55	12:02					
Caldercraigs (Halt)		12:00	12:07	12:14					
Alloa		12:12	12:19	12:26					
Stirling		12:24	12:31	12:38					
Falkirk		12:36	12:43	12:50					
Glasgow		12:48	12:55	13:02					



minutes.

There is only a service between West Calder and Edinburgh on Sundays. Two coach class 156 DMUs form the main service providing 142 seats per set. There are no plans to electrify the line.

Seats

Thus, for two cities, about 65km apart, ScotRail provides four different direct routes and for much of the day operates at least ten trains an hour each way on them.

Each hour during the day ScotRail provides over 3,400 seats each way and from my observations there are times when all are needed. Loadings have increased considerably because of the frequency and high speeds.

