

Rerouting of Freight Traffic from Rheintalbahn to **alternative routes**

Questions & Answers



Due to the incident during construction work carried out at the Rastatt tunnel, it is currently not possible for trains to run on the Rheintalbahn route between Rastatt and Baden-Baden. A reliable replacement schedule has been put in place: Freight trains are being rerouted, and for passenger traffic, bus shuttles have been established for the respective route section. For freight trains DB Netz AG organises capacities on diversionary routes to enable the operation of as many trains as possible despite the Rheintalbahn closure.

1 Which alternative routes have been established?

To offset the traffic on the Rheintalbahn, DB Netz AG is offering capacities on alternative routes; all rerouting activities are coordinated closely with the affected Railway Undertakings (RUs). To ensure that the offered capacities can be used, RUs need to clarify the availability of train drivers and locomotives and reorganize the respective train schedule and turnarounds.

At present, infrastructure capacities on the alternative routes are available to allow for the continued transport of goods via rail. Traffic on the existing alternative routes is stabilizing.

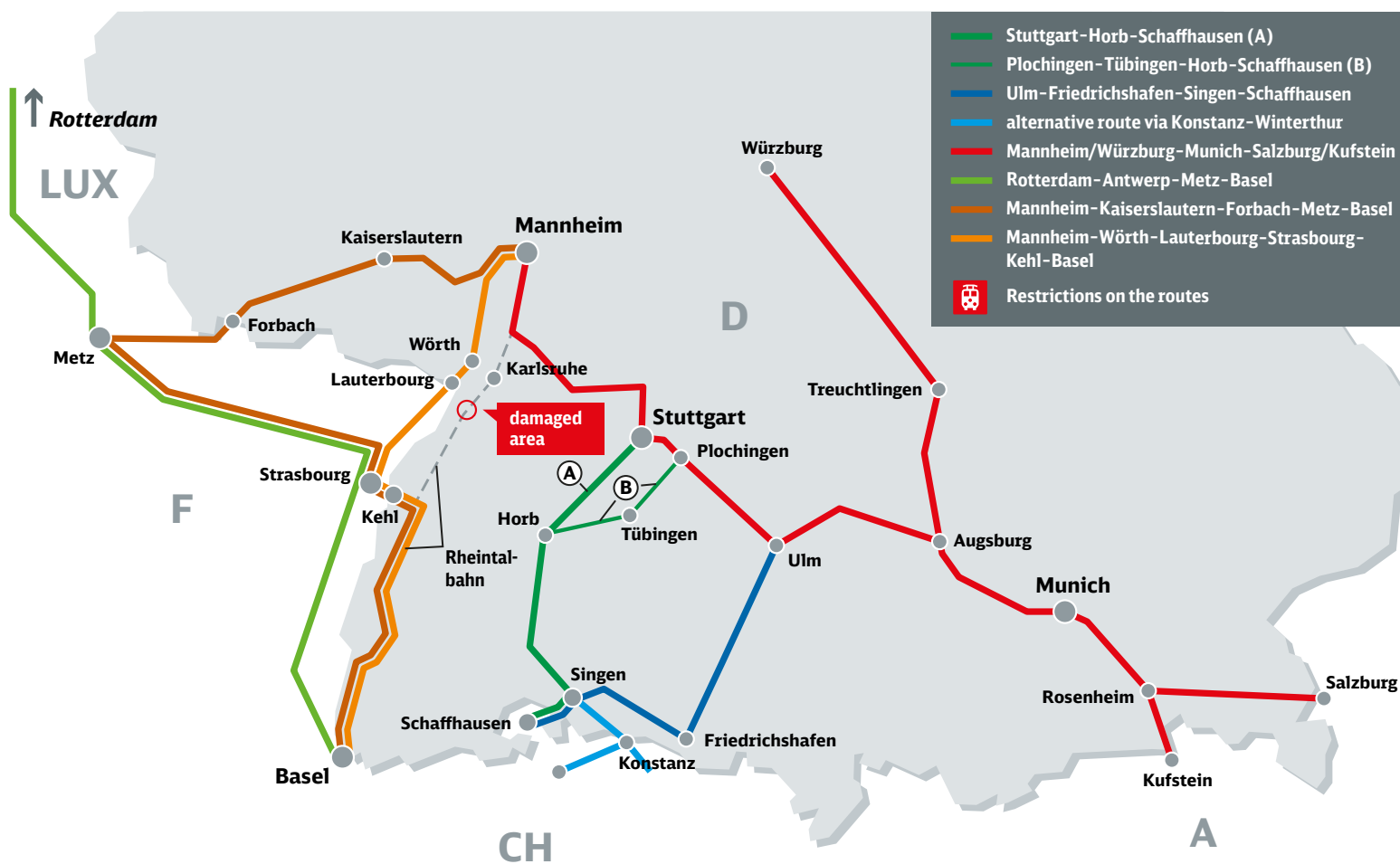
At the moment, the Neckar-Alb-Bahn (Plochingen–Tübingen–Horb) ist mainly used as an alternative route for freight trains. To accommodate the increase in freight traffic, regional passenger traffic on the route has been restricted.

From 6 September 2017 on, freight traffic can use the faster Gäubahn route (Stuttgart–Hattingen). To this end, construction work currently underway on the Gäubahn route will be shortened by a week, by 5 September 2017.

Overview of diversionary routes

- Stuttgart–Horb–Schaffhausen
- Plochingen–Tübingen–Horb–Schaffhausen
- Ulm–Friedrichshafen–Singen–Schaffhausen
- Mannheim/Würzburg–Munich–Salzburg/Kufstein–Brenner
- Rotterdam–Antwerp–Metz–Basel (Rail Freight Corridor 2/RFC NSMED)
- Mannheim–Kaiserslautern–Forbach–Metz–Basel
- Mannheim–Wörth–Lauterbourg–Strasbourg–Kehl–Basel

Please see the illustration below for detailed information about the alternative routes. Click on the train icons to see specific restrictions on the routes.



 A list of all restrictions can be downloaded at dbnetze.com/grossstoerungen

None of the listed alternative routes is used to full capacity in early September. From 6 September 2017 on, the route Stuttgart–Horb–Singen–Schaffhausen can be used again. It will replace the alternative route Plochingen–Tübingen–Horb–Schaffhausen.

Points to be considered when ordering alternative routes

From the beginning of the rerouting period on, Railway Undertakings should partly cancel freight trains to be rerouted and reorder them again as occasional traffic with a new train number. To this end, DB Netz AG together with its partnering infrastructure service providers SNCF Réseau, SBB Infrastruktur and ÖBB Infrastruktur has agreed upon an allocation of new train numbers, which must be used for the new orders. On the “Trassenportal Netz” (Route Portal Network), please add a reference to the previous train number under “Customer to DB Netz” and include the keyword “Route Closure Rastatt” to allow us to make the connection to the partially cancelled train as quickly as possible.

The partial cancellation in the area of DB Netz AG for freight traffic in the south and southbound serves the purpose of stabilizing traffic of trains with starting points or destinations in neighboring countries, especially in Belgium and the Netherlands.



Good to know

In the case of a rerouting due to a specific incident (such as in this case the tunnel collapse at Rastatt), the ‘most favorable rate’ principle applies: Railway Undertakings only pay for the line that comes with the lowest track access charges.

Furthermore, DB Netz AG will not charge any cancellation fees for lines and service installations or change fees. It will also cover the diesel towing locomotive runs for entering the Horb–Tübingen route.

2 Whom should Railway Undertakings contact in case of questions?

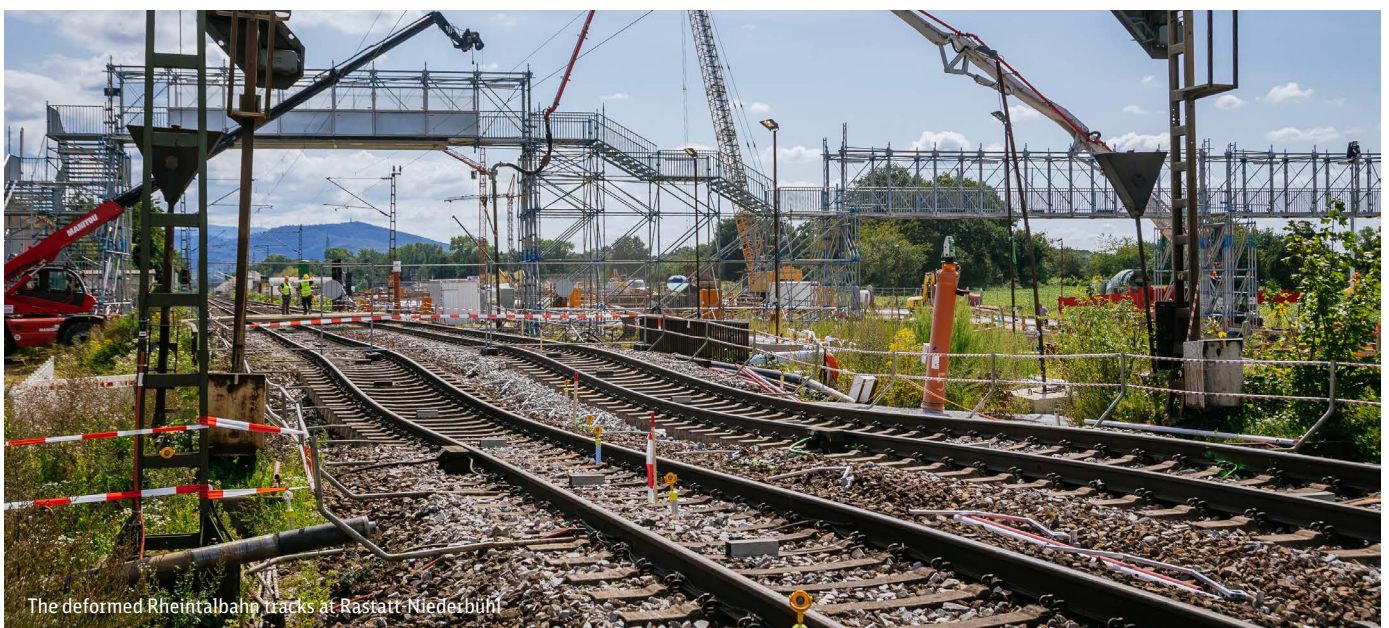
Do you have any questions concerning capacities on the alternative routes or the rerouting of trains? Please contact your regional sales office of DB Netz AG at any time.

We would be happy to assist you. For contact information, please see www.dbnetze.com/kontakte.

3 Background information: What happened?

During tunnel-boring work at Rastatt (upgrading and new build of a freight bypass on the Karlsruhe–Basel route), there was an incident on 12 August 2017 involving a sudden inrush of considerable amounts of soil and water into the

construction site. The upper structure caved, deforming the above Rheintalbahn tracks. Since this incident, the Rastatt–Baden-Baden route section has been closed.



The deformed Rheintalbahn tracks at Rastatt-Niederbühl

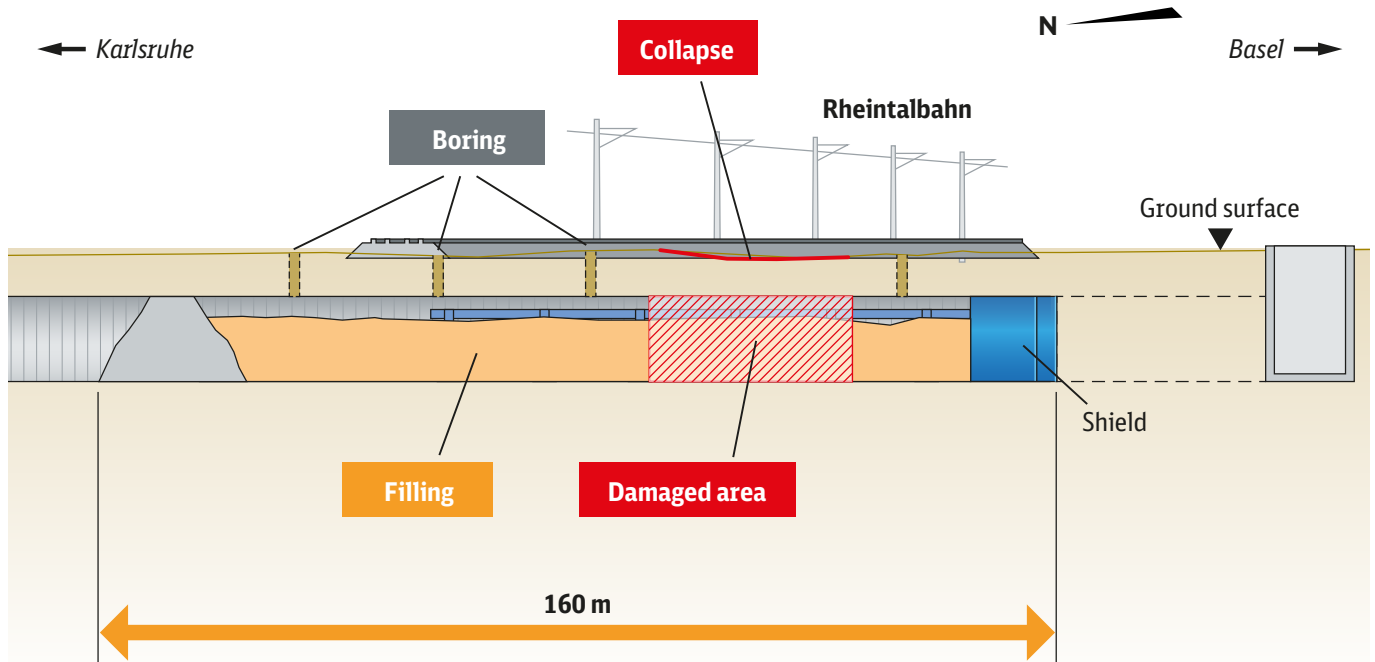
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How will the damage be repaired?

The damaged tunnel tube has since been secured. To this end, a concrete slab was cast and inserted into the tube behind the tunnel boring machine to separate the approx. 4,000 meters of undamaged tunnel sections from the incident site. The part up to the cutting wheel of the machine was filled with concrete. In a next step, the tracks, gravel and track substructure at the incident site were dismantled.

A load-distributing concrete slab will be put into the ground to stabilize the construction site. After the slab has been produced and the concrete has fully cured, the Rheintal-bahn tracks will be reconstructed. The line is scheduled to reopen on 7 October 2017.

Filling of tunnel tube



The damaged area was filled. Subsequently, the Rheintalbahn tracks were dismantled. Next, the construction site will be stabilized using a concrete slab and finally, the tracks will be reconstructed.

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Where to look for news on current developments

The website dbnetze.com/grosstoerungen is updated frequently to reflect any relevant information on rerouting sections as well as technical and operational details.

Further information:

- Construction work at the Karlsruhe–Basel section:
www.karlsruhe-basel.de
- Current press releases of DB:
www.deutschebahn.com/presse

Imprint

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