



Lötschberg Base Tunnel

10 years in operation –
now we're extending the tunnel

The Lötschberg Base Tunnel today

The 35-kilometre-long tunnel is part of the NRLA and is at full capacity as far as the Swiss border. There is only single-track operation for 21 kilometres. There already exists a second tunnel heading for 14 kilometres, but this is still a basic shell. BLS started planning for an extension to the Lötschberg Base Tunnel in 2016. The decision as to whether or not the tunnel should be extended falls to the Swiss Parliament as part of the STEP strategic development programme.

bls.ch/nrla

What benefits will

the extension bring?



It will facilitate a half-hourly passenger service between Bern and Valais.



It will strengthen the competitiveness of railway freight transport: more trains will run through the base tunnel instead of over the mountain line, which is shorter and more economical for companies.



In the event of an interruption to the service on the Gotthard axis, it will improve the option of a diversion through the Alps.



It will simplify modernisation and intervention in the event of incidents.



It will relieve the mountain line of heavy goods trains and improve the attraction of the region to tourists.