

Secretary of State for Transport
c/o Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit,
Department for Transport,
Great Minster House,
33 Horseferry Road,
London,
SW1P 4DR

E-mail transportinfrastructure@dft.gov.uk
Cc Joanna.Vincent@gateleyhamer.com

To whom it may concern,

I would like to confirm our support for the Transpennine Route Upgrade (TRU). It is a project that was first announced in 2011 and is a vitally important short-medium term project for the North and for this region in terms of meeting the capacity and connectivity needs of this region, supporting economy recovery and levelling up opportunities, helping us to achieve our ambitious net-zero target by 2038 and ultimately providing a more inclusive and accessible railway network for all.

On 31 March 2021, Network Rail submitted a Transport and Works Act Order (TWAo) application to the Secretary of State for Transport for the proposed improvements between Huddersfield to Westtown. The proposed work in the Order is key to delivering the benefits passengers want along the Transpennine route.

In our response to the TWAo consultation, we raised a number of concerns in relation to the Order particularly around the powers of compulsory acquisition and temporary possession over land owned by the Combined Authority in the vicinity of Huddersfield bus station. Network Rail has actively engaged with the Combined Authority in the last three months and we are pleased to confirm that we have reached a formal agreement with them on safeguarding the operation of the Huddersfield Bus station and the consequential impacts of the scheme on bus travel in the district. There is no requirement for us to attend the Public Inquiry scheduled in November 2021.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the Combined Authority's support to the proposed Order and TRU in general. I look forward to receiving firm commitment from the Government to deliver TRU in full without further delay with full electrification, optimised line speed improvements, W12 gauge for freight, European Train Control signalling and accessible stations throughout the route in advance of a new Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) line via Bradford city centre.

Yours sincerely,



Ben Still
Managing Director