

Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit (TIPU)

Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Sent by email

14th November 2025

To whom it may concern,

Letter of support: Network Rail Stalybridge to Diggle (Saddleworth) Enhancements Order

The Northern Powerhouse Partnership (NPP) is proud to offer its support for the Transport and Works Act Order relating to the Transpennine Route Upgrade (TRU) between Stalybridge and Diggle (Saddleworth). This flagship infrastructure project is a vital component of the Northern Powerhouse ambition to transform east-west connectivity and drive economic growth across the governments Northern Growth Corridor.

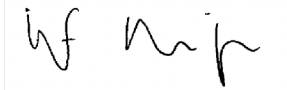
The Transpennine route connecting Manchester, Huddersfield, Leeds, York, handles a demanding mix of fast express services, local stopping trains, and significant freight volumes. Despite it's critical importance the route has suffered from decades of underinvestment, leaving it congestion and limited capacity for future growth. The TRU programme, including this Order, is essential to unlocking that bottleneck by delivering full electrification, modern digital signalling enabling trains to operate more closely, additional track sections, and enhanced station facilities.

We strongly support the relocation of Mossley station to a new, fully accessible and compliant station facility. The new stations modern amenities, including lifts and longer platforms will improve the passenger experience, particularly for those with mobility needs. Furthermore, the provision of safe alternative routes across the railway for existing level crossings addresses critical safety concerns and enhances local connectivity for surrounding communities. These improvements are essential to unlocking housing delivery, supporting local businesses and accelerating the North's productivity by driving significant investment in the cities along the route, as highlighted in our recent 2025 Spending Review submission. Improvements are equally important in supporting the decarbonisation of transport in the North. Analysis undertaken by NPP makes a strong case for TRU upgrade investment in terms of it's impact on long term UK growth.

Beyond infrastructure, the TRU programme has demonstrated effective partnership working with key stakeholders across the region, including careful coordination with local transport enhancements such as integration into the Bee Network and strategic alignment with Northern Powerhouse Rail delivery. This coordinated approach ensures maximum impact, minimising disruptions and delivering a seamless, sustainable, and future-proof transport system.

The Northern Powerhouse Partnership firmly believes that timely delivery of the Transport and Works Act Order will catalyse economic regeneration across the North. We urge government and delivery partners to maintain momentum and funding commitment to ensure the full realisation of this transformative upgrade for the benefit of people and businesses across the North.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hf Mip', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Henri Murison

Chief Executive, Northern Powerhouse Partnership