

From: [REDACTED]
To: [TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE](#)
Subject: Network Rail Stalybridge to Diggle TWA Order
Date: 19 December 2025 16:36:24

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Objection to Proposed Permanent Closure of Moorgate Level Crossing

Dear Sirs

I am writing to express my objection to the proposed permanent closure of Moorgate Level Crossing (Public Right of Way 209, Saddleworth) as part of the TransPennine Route Upgrade (TRU). While I understand the need for rail safety improvements following the electrification of the line, I strongly oppose the closure of this historic route without a suitable replacement.

Path 209 is an ancient highway of significant local and historical importance, with high pedestrian usage, including by vulnerable individuals. The alternative path (244) proposed by Network Rail is not a suitable or convenient replacement due to its steep 65 steps and unsafe exit onto Oldham Road, which lacks a footway. This poses significant risks, particularly for mobility-impaired individuals, and fails to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Network Rail initially favoured a footbridge in 2022, supported by their Diversity Impact Assessment and planning consent. However, this plan was abandoned in 2024 due to an unsubstantiated cost increase from £1.2 million to £4.5 million. Additionally, Network Rail has not adequately explored revised construction access arrangements that could reduce costs.

The public consultation process was misleading, offering no option for a footbridge, and the majority of responses opposed the use of path 244 as an alternative. Furthermore, Network Rail has failed to conduct a risk assessment for path 244 and has provided false information to obtain a temporary closure of path 209.

I urge you to reconsider the closure of this historic route and explore more suitable alternatives, such as a footbridge, to ensure the safety and accessibility of all users.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kind Regards

Brian Tarmey

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