

From: [REDACTED]
To: [TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE](#)
Subject: Moorgate Footbridge
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OBJECTION TO THE CLOSURE OF MOORGATE LEVEL CROSSING ON FOOTPATH 209 SADDLEWORTH ON BEHALF OF SADDLEWORTH PEDESTRIANS WALKING CLUB AND MYSELF

Subject: Network Rail Stalybridge to Diggle TWA Order

Objection: Moorgate Level Crossing Uppermill Oldham

I was shocked to hear that there is a proposal to close the Moorgate Level Crossing on Footpath TP 209. I understand that this is part of the Transpennine Upgrade across the region. If this is part of an upgrade, I see no reason why footpaths should be permanently closed. Because that is what would happen if the Moorgate Level Crossing was closed. The path would just stop at the railway line and once closed would never open again.

This path: FP209 Saddleworth is an ancient footpath that has been there before the railway line. It gives access to footpaths on Moorgate Quarry walking trails, Saddleworth Golf Club, access to footpaths on Wharmton Hill footpaths beyond as well as in the opposite direction down Dark Lane onto Moorgate Street into the centre of Uppermill. I visit friends who live in Dobcross where we were frequently used FP209 over the Level crossing before the temporary closure. We used the footpath mostly for leisure and visiting Uppermill accessing the footpath down Dark Lane from Ladcastle Road over the crossing straight into Uppermill and returning back to Dobcross.

I am a member of Saddleworth Pedestrians Walking Club and have been for the last fifteen years. At present I am standing in for the Chair and I am club Treasurer. We have up to 100 members who walk every Sunday all year round. This particular footpath is well known to all our members who use it regularly on set walks we have in and round the Greenfield and Uppermill areas. Indeed, many of our members live in these areas and were quite surprised to learn that as a consequence of the Transpennine Railway Upgrade FP209 will be permanently closed. This, to us, is not acceptable.

From what I can gather Network Rail's proposal to close the level crossing on FP209 and upgrade footpath FP244 Saddleworth for local walkers to use as an alternative is not acceptable. As local residents and Saddleworth Pedestrians Walking Club we know this path well. We recommend that it should not be used. The lower section before the railway underpass is waterlogged and slippery under foot. The stairs are too steep and dangerous. This path exits directly onto the busy Oldham Road that is outside the village.

Network Rail are proposing to upgrade footpath FP244 Saddleworth spending £250,000. The minor improvements proposed by Network Rail would certainly not make FP244 any safer or suitable for the volume and type of walker who have regularly used FP209. The money would be better spent on a foot bridge over the railway line where the level crossing is now. From documentation I have seen. Network rail's footbridge design proposal was for an existing standard step up and step-down footbridge. This would be inadequate. What is needed is a flatbed design going across towards Ladcastle Road (similar to the footbridge that crosses the railway line at holly Grove Diggle). Network rail initially quoted that a design for the footbridge at Moorgate of this type would cost £1.2 million. Then with no explanation increase this quotation to £4.5 million without any justification. I for one would like to know why.

Aaron Parnell B.Sc. CEng. MIMechE

Stand in Chair and Treasurer of Saddleworth Pedestrians Walking Club

e-mail:-

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Address:-

Mr Aaron Parnell,

[REDACTED]

Date:-

17th Dec 2025

Regards

Aaron Parnell

p.s. Please will send me an acknowledgment of my objection.