Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit (TIPU)
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

11 November 2025

To whom it may concern,

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

On behalf of Huddersfield Town Football Club, based at Accu Stadium, I am writing in support of the Transport and Works Act Order for the Transpennine Route Upgrade (TRU) between Stalybridge and Diggle (Saddleworth). Our stadium welcomes thousands of fans each matchday and serves as a growing centre for large conferences, concerts, and leisure activities, with ambitious plans including a hotel and other developments to support regeneration for Huddersfield and the wider community.

Many supporters and event visitors rely on direct rail links for safe, convenient access to Accu Stadium, with frequent journeys from Manchester, Leeds, and York. However, the Transpennine route is increasingly congested and has seen underinvestment for decades. Despite handling fast express, local stopping, and vital freight traffic, the route lacks the capacity, reliability and modern signalling needed for future growth. The Order—part of the wider TRU programme—will enable more trains, faster and more reliable services, and increased resilience for both passengers and freight. New digital signalling will mean trains can run closer together, increasing punctuality and crowd management on busy match and event days.

Looking beyond football fixtures, Accu Stadium's transformational development aims to make it a year-round destination for business visitors and audiences attending large-scale events. Improved regional rail infrastructure is essential for unlocking new opportunities, supporting jobs and investment, and helping Huddersfield thrive as a location for future growth. Accessibility improvements proposed in the order including safer stations and safer level crossings will benefit disabled or older supporters, families, and all those with mobility needs, in line with the club's values of inclusion and community.

During significant rail works, including the recent Huddersfield station blockade, TRU worked closely with Huddersfield Town to keep our fans informed, demonstrating great partnership and understanding of the club's needs. Coordinated travel planning and timely communications ensured supporters were aware of disruption and alternate travel options, reflecting understanding of importance of collaboration with local businesses and partners.

Accu Stadium, Stadium Way, Huddersfield, HD1 6PX
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Huddersfield Town also recognises the need for coordinated delivery with future schemes, including Northern Powerhouse Rail and full integration with the Bee Network, to support seamless, sustainable travel and legacy benefits for the Huddersfield and the whole region.

We urge the timely approval of this Transport and Works Act Order, and from our perspective we can see how these upgrades will act as a catalyst for prosperity, sustainability, and improved access for our supporters, our visitors and the whole region.

Please feel free to contact me should you need to discuss this letter and our connectivity ambitions in greater detail.

Your sincerely,

David Threlfall-Sykes
Chief Operating Officer, Huddersfield Town

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