Greater Manchester
Chamber of Commerce

Network Rail Stalybridge to Diggle Order

04th December 2025

Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce is the largest in the UK and represents more than 4,000 businesses across Greater Manchester who between them employ more than 700,000 people.

The Chamber recognises that the Transpennine Route Upgrade (TRU) is a once-in-a-generation investment in transport infrastructure for the North. The programme will deliver faster, more reliable and greener rail connections between key economic centres across Greater Manchester and Yorkshire, unlocking opportunities for growth, productivity and inward investment. All issues that our members fully support.

The Mossley Station upgrade is of particular importance to our business community. Enhanced station facilities, step-free access, and improved service reliability will make Tameside more attractive to employers and commuters. Better rail connectivity will help local businesses access a wider labour pool, attract a skilled workforce and strengthen supply chain links and collaboration across the Pennines.

Planned capacity and reliability improvements between Saddleworth and Diggle will also address a long-standing bottleneck on this vital part of the Transpennine route. The upgrades covered under this Order are vital to unleashing the full potential of TRU and ensuring the North has the rail infrastructure needed to serve current and future business need.

We also welcome the improvements for rail freight capacity which will help cut the number of heavy good vehicles, reduce pressure on local roads and motorways like the M62, improve supply chain resilience and support a modal shift that contributes to businesses achieving their carbon reduction targets. Improved freight paths and reliability will help businesses move goods more efficiently to national distribution centres and ports, lowering logistics costs and improving access to markets across the UK and overseas.

Timely delivery of the Order and the wider TRU scheme is essential to give business confidence and allow complementary local transport investments such as the Bee Network and Northern Powerhouse Rail to move forward. Any delays would hold back economic growth in Greater Manchester and the wider region.

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At a time of increased uncertainty and lack of clear investment for future growth the TRU scheme is something that businesses can fully get behind and support and will be increasing critical for delivery of growth opportunities across the north of England.

Chris Fletcher

Policy Director.

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