From: [redacted]
To: TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE
Subject: Network Rail Stalybridge to Diggle TWA Order
Date: 14 November 2025 22:30:35

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Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to object to the proposed closure of the Public Right of Way 209 Saddleworth. I am aware that the closure of the Moorgate level crossing is necessary on the grounds of safety once the line is electrified, but surely the best solution is to construct a footbridge rather than using Path 244 as an alternative to Path 209.

Path 244 has 65 steps and a dangerous exit onto Oldham Road at a spot that has no footway. It is not suitable or convenient, and no risk assessment has been undertaken. The local community wants Path 209 retained. It is a very old route, dating back at least 500 years, and is well used by pedestrians and vulnerable people.

A footbridge was favoured by Network Rail in 2022, when it was recommended in their Diversity Impact Assessment, and it had planning consent. Subsequently the footbridge plan was abandoned in 2024. This was apparently due to a cost increase (£1.2 million to £4.5 million), but this increase has not been substantiated. It is far greater that the cost of other bridges that are being built at present.

I hope that you will consider these objections carefully.

Regards

Helen Rigby
[redacted]