

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: TRU Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO) Stalybridge to Diggle (Saddleworth)

The University of Huddersfield is very pleased to offer our support for the proposed Transport and Works Act Order for the TransPennine Route Upgrade (TRU) between Stalybridge and Diggle (Saddleworth). Our University has nationally recognised rail research expertise, we see this scheme as vital to our mission and the success of West Yorkshire and the North.

Through our Institute of Railway Research, the University of Huddersfield has directly contributed technical expertise to TRU, through the development of cutting-edge technology that aligns with the industry's strategic drive to lower costs and accelerate rail decarbonisation, helping deliver reliable, low carbon rail infrastructure, while creating opportunities for innovation, research, collaboration and hands-on experience for students and graduates.

The proposed upgrade will better connect our region through more frequent, faster, and more reliable services between Manchester, Huddersfield, Leeds, and York, transforming access for our staff, students, researchers, and partner organisations. For the University of Huddersfield, this is not only about improving commutes for thousands of students and staff, but also about strengthening our contributions to economic recovery and regional growth. Robust transport links support increased access to jobs, skills, and education, vital for enhancing our recruitment and engagement across Greater Manchester, South Yorkshire, and beyond.

TRU will greatly enhance knowledge transfer partnerships and university-industry collaborations that span regional boundaries: improved connectivity allows our researchers and students to work more closely with employers, innovating across advanced manufacturing, health, and digital sectors. In turn, this supports skills development and helps tackle inequalities in economic opportunity throughout the North.

We particularly welcome the commitment to accessibility improvements, including the relocation and upgrade of Mossley and Greenfield stations and the creation of safer, more accessible alternatives at key level crossings. This will directly benefit groups we work with, older people, those with limited

Queensgate, Huddersfield, HD1 3DH, UK

☎ +44 (0) 1484 422288 📠 +44 (0) 1484 516151

Chancellor: Sir George Buckley

Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive: Professor Bob Cryan CBE DL CMgr

CCMI FREng

An exempt charity



mobility, wheelchair users, and caregivers, with tangible improvements to public transport access and user experience.

As our National Health Innovation Campus moves toward completion, the importance of these upgrades grows further. This new facility is designed to serve patients and partners from across Yorkshire and Greater Manchester. Only by ensuring transport links are inclusive, resilient, and future-ready can we fulfil our ambition to deliver advanced healthcare innovation for all these communities.

Crucially, TRU's electrification plans and broader decarbonisation ambitions will help us meet our sustainability goals and national low-carbon commitments. Reduced road use, increased rail freight capacity, and greener rail travel will benefit our environmental impact, improve air quality, and facilitate modal shift for both staff and students.

The University wholeheartedly supports the timely delivery of the Order, assuming that TRU continues to mitigate the impact of the works in the form of (for example) temporary replacement service where necessary. This major investment will unlock practical and long-term benefits for Huddersfield, our partners, and local communities, supporting growth, inclusion, resilience, and opportunity for years to come.

Yours sincerely



Professor Tim Thornton
Deputy Vice Chancellor

Queensgate, Huddersfield, HD1 3DH, UK

☎ +44 (0) 1484 422288 📠 +44 (0) 1484 516151

Chancellor: Sir George Buckley

Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive: Professor Bob Cryan CBE DL CMgr

CCMI FREng

An exempt charity

