



West
Yorkshire
Combined
Authority

Tracy
Brabin
Mayor of
West Yorkshire

Lord Peter Hendy
Minister for Rail
Department for Transport
By Email

17th December 2025

Dear Peter,

Thank you for your letter which confirms the Government's commitment to delivering West Yorkshire Mass Transit. I am delighted to be working alongside you to deliver this project and look forward to benefiting from your experience of similar schemes.

The commitment to delivery is vital. I agree with the need to produce a clear and compelling business case for the project, so that the benefits of the scheme will be clear for all to see, and I am pleased we agree on the need to explore all options for accelerating the programme. Our region has had two similar projects fail, and it is imperative that we deliver this time.

I believe it takes too long to deliver infrastructure in this country. If we are to be the builders and not the blockers, we must look at how we can make quicker decisions and speed up processes. Other countries manage to do this faster than us. It cannot be right that it could take 18 years from the beginning of the project to the end.

I remain committed – with your backing – to getting spades in the ground on preparatory works for the project by 2028. Whilst this will not involve laying tracks, it will ensure that we are not creating issues in new developments that cause problems for the project, and could unblock issues in our road network that will be vital to any Mass Transit project in the region, helping to advance future delivery.

I hope that the scheme will be included in the Government Major Projects Portfolio and added to the National Infrastructure Pipeline. It is appropriate that a scheme of this scale – the largest local transport project in the country - is included, and will provide confidence to local residents, businesses, and investors that the Government is fully committed to supporting me in delivering Mass Transit in our region.

I am grateful for the support of your Department which, along with independent expert advice, has helped us to implement improvements to our decision-making arrangements and processes locally, to ensure we are well placed to deliver in the future. This includes strengthening the partnership arrangements with the Department for Transport, and local authorities.



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I thank you again for your support and the collaborative spirit which you have begun in your role as Minister responsible for Mass Transit. I look forward to working with you in partnership as we advance the project delivery.

Yours Sincerely

**Tracy Brabin
Mayor of West Yorkshire**