



Department  
for Transport

Mayor Tracy Brabin,  
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**Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill**  
Minister of State for Rail

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13 February 2026

Dear Tracy,

Thank you to you and your team for arranging a productive visit to discuss West Yorkshire Mass Transit (WYMT) on 30<sup>th</sup> January.

It was very helpful to meet local stakeholders, including the Leaders of City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council and Leeds City Council, alongside significant regional investors to understand in detail the strong shared vision for WYMT and how it fits in with West Yorkshire's growth strategy, expanding opportunity in the region. In my experience having absolute clarity on the contribution of a mass transit programme to a place's growth strategy is vital to their successful delivery.

We discussed the importance of clearly articulating the jobs, growth and homes that WYMT can help deliver as part of your Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC). It was clear during my visit that there are extensive interconnected potential benefits that now need to be captured and clearly articulated in your Strategic Case. These include the residential and commercial sites that the programme can unlock, densify and/or accelerate, and communities that will be transformed through this transformational investment.

There was clearly huge support for the programme amongst local private and public sector stakeholders when I met them. This creates an exciting opportunity to draw on their deep banks of evidence for the SOBC, collaboratively assemble development land to amplify WYMT's regeneration impacts and maximise third party contributions.

I suggest that this goodwill is further harnessed by ensuring your new governance structures enable discussion and engagement around the potential benefits of a phased approach to accelerate development and delivery of WYMT, in close alignment with Local Plans and our investment in Northern Powerhouse Rail.

As you work through the most effective mix of modes and routes to build a mass transit solution that delivers for the people of West Yorkshire, it is important to carefully consider the cost, effects and benefits/disbenefits of 'street running' vs utilising reserved track where available or running through brownfield land.

The Secretary of State and I are fully committed to WYMT and will ensure that the Department for Transport continues to support you in establishing the capability and capacity you will require to develop a programme of this scale and complexity. This is why we have provided you with future investment certainty, subject to business case, by continuing to support WYMT in future (post-2032) funding rounds of the Government's 'Transport for City Regions' initiative.

I look forward to continuing to work side-by-side with you to drive forward this transformational, and nationally significant, infrastructure programme.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Peter Hendy', with a long, wavy horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Peter, Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill**  
**MINISTER OF STATE FOR RAIL**