



Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill
Minister of State for Rail

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Mayor Tracy Brabin
West Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority
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17 December 2025

Dear Tracy

The West Yorkshire Mass Transit programme is the largest local transport project in the UK. The delivery of the programme will help to transform the connectivity in Leeds, Bradford and beyond. The Government understands that if we are to grow our economy successfully, we need to back projects such as this.

That's why we were delighted to allocate funding for the project as part of West Yorkshire's £2.1 billion Transport for City Regions fund between 2027 and 2032. We have ensured that you have sufficient resources to make great progress on the project in that period.

I know from experience what is needed to deliver such an ambitious scheme. And I am delighted to have been given the Ministerial responsibility for the programme by the Secretary of State for Transport. I look forward to working alongside you to deliver the programme over the coming years.

I am glad that you have taken steps to consider how best to provide delivery certainty to the programme, including drawing on independent expert advice. In my experience the decisions you make now on how the programme is set up and the right expert team is built will pay dividends in terms of assuring delivery of this transformational programme. I am hopeful that we will be able to include the programme in the Government Major Projects Portfolio. This will help to ensure it has the full focus of Government on its delivery, but in any event I would be happy to ensure that the project benefits from the support of the government's project delivery community.


You have also decided on a resequencing of the project to ensure that it is fully focussed on delivering the business case to the Government, which will clearly demonstrate the full range of benefits the project will deliver. The programme to date

has helpfully made significant progress to shortlist potential routes and modes, all of which will be valuable as the project progresses. As we have discussed, this change will have consequences for the expected date for entry into service of the programme, which is projected to move from the mid-2030s to the late-2030s.

You have expressed to me your frustration at how long it takes to deliver Mass Transit schemes in the UK. I fully agree with this. We must seek to accelerate the delivery of the programme at every stage, supported by a clear and compelling business case for doing so, otherwise we risk holding back the growth of our city regions. Whilst we agree that the current process must be followed to provide certainty and confidence in the project, I am also committed to working with you to explore the potential for existing processes to be sharpened and advise on opportunities to accelerate and bring the date for delivery into service forward.

You have my commitment to work alongside you to get this project delivered, and that it remains a vital part of our Government's ambition for your region.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Peter Hendy', is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Peter, Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RAIL