

HIGH SPEED RAIL IN LEEDS CITY REGION

On behalf of all the team at HS2 Ltd, welcome to this update, which we hope is the start of renewed conversations with everyone along the route of our new national railway.

Not everyone needs an introduction to HS2, so we've split this update into three sections. On this page, we explain what HS2 means for the country as we get ready for construction. Inside, you can read about HS2 activity in your area. On the back page are links to information we hope you find useful, including how to contact us.

We'd welcome your feedback on this update, so please do get in touch.

What is HS2?

HS2 is a new railway that will connect the whole country like never before. When it's complete, this new high speed spine will seamlessly connect to the existing network and support fast, frequent, reliable connections for over 100 cities and towns, including eight of our largest cities.

Why are we building it?

Over the last 20 years, the number of people travelling by train has doubled, and it's growing each year. This puts more and more pressure on the existing rail network and if we don't act, thousands of people will have to endure increasingly overcrowded journeys. And in the Midlands and the North, economic growth has been held back because we haven't invested enough in new, high-quality transport connections.

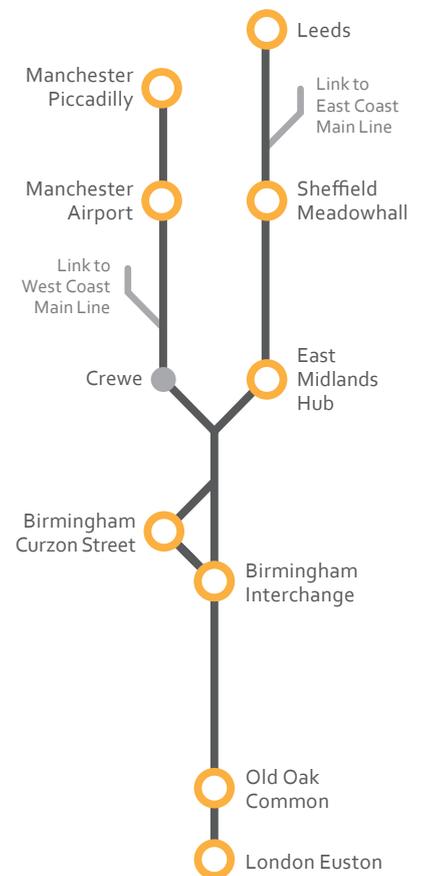
HS2 is designed to solve these issues. It'll ease congestion on important commuter lines, provide extra space for local and regional services, and reduce road traffic. It is a crucial project – and you can expect to feel the benefit even if you never board an HS2 train.

What does it mean for me?

We're extremely aware of the issues that building a new railway presents to those who live nearby, and we take our responsibility to you very seriously. Ultimately, we want to make HS2 mean something positive to everyone, whether it stands for fairness and clarity, better training for current and future engineers, a catalyst for jobs and investment in your area, a world-class railway or simply a new and exciting way to travel.



Leeds Town Hall





“We are committed to working in a fair, respectful and transparent way with people who are affected. Living up to this aspiration is critical to the success of the project.”

Sir David Higgins, Chairman, HS2 Ltd

DELIVERING HS2

HS2 Ltd was set up by the Government to deal with the design, engineering and technical requirements of building the railway. But we also have an important role in making sure that if you're affected by the Government's plans, you understand what to expect (and when), and how we can help. These pages explain the work we're doing, and what's going on in your area.

HS2 will be built in two phases. It will connect London to Birmingham ('Phase One') from 2026 and then, following a Y-shaped route, to Manchester in the west and Leeds in the east ('Phase Two') from 2033.

Phase One (London-West Midlands)

If you're in a region that's on the Phase One line of route, then the legislation for your part of the project is currently being considered by Parliament – this is how the Government gets permission to build the railway, and ensures everyone's comments are heard. We're expecting formal planning permission, known as Royal Assent, at the end of 2016, but you may see us carrying out surveys or preparing things before then.

Phase Two (Birmingham-Leeds, Manchester and beyond)

We held a public consultation on the Phase Two line of route in 2013. We're still working on the plans, and the Government intends to announce the way forward later in 2015. The plans will follow a similar parliamentary process to Phase One.

LEEDS CITY REGION

Need for a new transport solution

Leeds station is the busiest in the North and is experiencing rapid growth. On an average weekday morning over 3,000 passengers arriving in Leeds during the morning peak stand up during their journeys, and demand for rail travel in general is forecast to rise. A new transport solution is needed.

HS2 will allow the region to realise its potential, providing better connections to the rest of the country. The corridor of Leeds, Sheffield, Nottingham, Derby and Birmingham has vast potential, but needs better transport links to connect a skilled workforce to new, more productive opportunities. So we're proposing to build an HS2 station in Leeds, where there's good connectivity to other towns and cities across West and North Yorkshire including Wakefield, Bradford and Harrogate.

When the quicker journey times to London are also factored in, it's clear that HS2 makes the region more attractive to new businesses, and gives confidence to existing businesses that this is the right place to expand.

Regeneration

Significant transport investment can transform an area, and the region's Strategic Economic Plan has identified HS2 as key to building on the work that's already being done to drive employment, growth and investment. The new HS2 station in Leeds will support between 13,000 and 20,000 new jobs and 1,700 to 2,400 new homes, regenerating the local area.

The South Bank area is already the focus of a £250m investment and the Aire Valley is one of the largest regeneration areas in the North. These strategic investments will use HS2 and existing local transport to connect to the UK's new business network.

York Central will also provide over 80,000m² of prime office accommodation and more than 1,100 new homes.

Leisure and tourism

And it's not just about business. The fast, frequent and state-of-the-art HS2 services will provide easy, hassle-free access to cultural attractions across the region, supporting Yorkshire's £7bn tourism economy. Connections to the East Coast Main Line mean HS2 passengers can travel to York and other vibrant cities in North East England without changing trains.



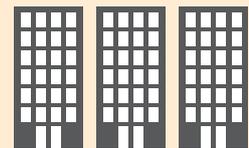
1,700

new homes
will be built



13,000+

jobs supported by
new HS2 station



80,000m²

of prime office space

Find out more

We are continuing to review and refine our proposals for the Phase Two route to ensure they bring the best solution in terms of sustainability impacts for communities and the environment as well as delivering connectivity and economic growth. The Government intends to announce the way forward on Phase Two later this year.

USEFUL LINKS



Residents'
Charter and
Commissioner

The Residents' Charter is our promise to communicate as clearly as we possibly can with people who live along or near the HS2 route. You can read it by visiting:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-residents-charter

We also have an independent Residents' Commissioner whose job is to make sure we keep to the promises we make in the Charter and to keep it under constant review. The first of the Residents' Commissioner's reports is published at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-residents-commissioner-report-1-may-2015

You can contact the Commissioner at residentscommissioner@hs2.org.uk



Project
updates

Updates on the project can be found at:

PHASE ONE

www.gov.uk/government/collections/high-speed-rail-london-west-midlands-bill

PHASE TWO

www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-phase-two-from-the-west-midlands-to-leeds-and-manchester

The Select Committee is the group of MPs who are independently considering objections to the Phase One proposals. The Parliament website publishes information about their work here:

www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/high-speed-rail-london-west-midlands-bill-select-committee-commons/



Accessibility

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Property and
compensation

You can find out all about HS2 and properties along the line of route by visiting

www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-property

Contact us

HS2 Ltd Community Relations Helpdesk

Tel: 020 7944 4908

Email: hszenquiries@hs2.org.uk

www.gov.uk/hs2

Please send us feedback on this update at:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/HS2_update