

15 October 2021

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
House of Commons
SW1A 0AA

Dear Prime Minister

Businesses are united behind the Midlands Rail Hub – it's time to deliver

We write to you as business leaders from across the Midlands region, to call for the delivery of your manifesto pledge to 'invest in the Midlands Rail Hub', committing this Government to funding the first phase of this major infrastructure project.

The Midlands Rail Hub is a package of improvements to our rail network that will allow faster, more frequent journeys and new rail connections for over 25 locations, creating 12 million more seats for passengers and making space for over a million more lorries' worth of cargo to be transported by rail each year.

As we look to build back better following the COVID-19 pandemic, this project will reduce emissions – each person or parcel moved by train rather than road produces 70% less CO₂ – and support our economic recovery, safeguarding and creating 1,600 jobs during its construction.

Our reliance on creaking Victorian railway infrastructure is stopping us from reaching our full potential; poor connectivity limits our access to skilled employees and is making it difficult for businesses to form strong working relationships with partners across the Midlands and beyond. Given the slow, infrequent train links connecting our region, it's no surprise that fewer than one in five east-west trips is made by rail. This has to change, for the sake of our productivity, trade and the future of our planet.

We call on you to set the wheels in motion and to provide the Midlands region with the financial and practical resources it needs to kickstart the delivery of Midlands Rail Hub. An investment in this project is not only an investment in businesses, industry and our future success, but will also catalyse additional private sector investment, further enhancing its impact. Given the pressures of the last 18 months, it's essential we get started now, and that you deliver on the pledges made in 2019's Conservative Party Manifesto.

continued/...

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Your full commitment now means that Birmingham, Coventry, Leicester, Derby, Hereford, Bromsgrove, Kings Norton, Worcester, Tamworth, Cheltenham and many more locations can begin to see the benefits of an improved and future-proofed network as soon as 2027, with the full project delivered by 2030.

The time is now for Government to level up the Midlands and deliver the Midlands Rail Hub.

Yours sincerely

- Henrietta Brealey, CEO, Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce
- Steve Allen, Partner, Head of Office - Mills & Reeve Birmingham and President of the Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce
- Deborah Leary, OBE, CEO of Forensic Pathways and Vice President, Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce
- Paul Faulkner, Chief of Staff & Operations, RCL Partners
- Patrick Twist, Chair, Greater Birmingham & Solihull Business Transport Group
- Eddie Fellows, Highway Network Director, Kier
- Ian Wailers, MD, Sable Light Consultancy
- Paul Fielding, Divisional Director, Brewin Dolphin LTD and Deputy Director, Colmore BID
- Professor Steve Brittan, Business Advisor, BSA Tools and Former President of the Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce
- Jacalyn Datta, President, Future Faces Chamber of Commerce
- Phil Arkinstall, Chief Executive, Ark Media and President of Sutton Coldfield Chamber of Commerce
- Tony O'Toole, Regional Director Birmingham and the Midlands, Mott MacDonald
- Shaun Gray, European Managing Director, Ginho Group and President of Burton Chamber of Commerce
- Jason Challoner, MD, Valyou Recruitment and President of Lichfield & Tamworth Chamber of Commerce
- Richard Toy, CEO, Auctus Management Group
- James Tait, Partner, Browne Jacobson LLP and President of the Transatlantic Chamber of Commerce
- Tracey Stephenson, Co-Founder & MD, Staying Cool
- Haydn Cooper, Chief Executive, Calthorpe Estates
- Joel Blake OBE, Founder, GFA Exchange and President of the Commonwealth Chamber of Commerce
- Chris Coyle, CEO, Ebikebrum
- Tony Elvin, General Manager, Touchwood and President of the Solihull Chamber of Commerce

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- Will Morlidge, Interim Chief Executive, D2N2 LEP
- Elizabeth Fagan, Chair, D2N2 LEP
- Peter Fletcher, Emerging Talent Specialist, Hitachi
- Robert Cooper, Business Safety & Services Manager, Resonate
- Will Tanner, Communications Director, Alstom
- Rupert Brennan-Brown, Director of Stakeholder Engagement, Porterbrook
- Alun Rogers, Chair, Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire Enterprise Partnership
- Sara Williams, CEO, Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce,
- Professor Liz Barnes, Vice Chancellor & Chief Executive, Staffordshire University
- Professor Martin Jones, Vice Chancellor & Chief Executive, Staffordshire University
- Nigel Ryan, CEO, EVC Solutions Limited
- Ian Kelsall, Managing Director, KLS Business Solutions Ltd
- Corin Crane, CEO, Black Country Chamber of Commerce
- Les Ratcliffe, Chairman, Coventry and Warwickshire Place Board & Champions
- Sarah Windrum, Chairman, Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership
- Craig Moule, Group Chief Executive, Sanctuary
- Carl Arntzen, CEO, Bosch
- Paul Robinson, Managing Director, Nottingham Trams
- Charles Conroy, Managing Director, Green Banking Group
- Ian Greenaway, Managing Director, MTM Products
- David Williams, Chairman, Geldards LLP
- Greg Hodge, New Business Development Manager, Premier Group Manufacturing
- Derek Gow, Commercial Director, Ainscough Crane Hire
- Elaine Clark, CEO, Midlands Rail
- Elliot Harris, Principal Consultant, Strategy and Governance
- Karen Shuter, Joint Managing Director, Exact Logistics
- Chris Goodayle, Director of Operations, Mpak
- Simon Wood, Logistics Director, European Metal Recycling Limited (EMR Group)
- Larry Coltman, Partner, Coltman Warner Cranson
- Alex Gibson, Partner, William Saunders
- Michael Hardy, Director, Newark Business Club
- Terry Nash, Director, Gusto Group Ltd
- Denys Shortt, Chairman, DCS Group UK
- Kevin Johns, Director, Prime Chartered Accountants
- Andy Miles, Managing Director, AS Miles Consulting Ltd

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- Alan Ryder, CEO, RSK
- John Brightmore, Owner, The Lawns Business Centre
- Gwyn Stubbings, Planning Director, GLP
- Jason Marbeck, Strategy & Development Director, AmcoGiffen
- Patrick Clipperton, Business Development Manager, Thales Ground Transportation Systems (UK) Ltd
- Steve Cocliff, Managing Director, VolkerRail Group
- James Tierney, Rail Development Manager, Maritime Transport
- James Banks, Head of Marketing and Communications, Aecom
- Noel Dolphin, Managing Director, Furrer+Frey GB
- Simon Johnson, Director, Touchscreen Talent
- Angela Britton, Director, PPR UK
- Andy Kevins, Managing Director, Yellow Group
- Jon Thompson, Managing Director, JT Recruit
- Christine Lawrence, Managing Director, The Graduate Recruitment
- Nick Salt, CEO, Systra
- Mark Doherty, Director, Alexander Chapel Recruitment
- Andrew Broster, CEO, Broster Buchanan
- Wayne Brophy, Managing Director, Cast UK
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