

Date: 8 September 2022

Rt Hon. Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP
Secretary of State for Transport

Transport for The North
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Dear Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP,

It is my pleasure to congratulate you on your appointment. It is good to have someone who hails from the North in this post and who knows firsthand what a vibrant and industrious region it is, but also the transport challenges holding us back from reaching our full potential.

Yesterday, I wrote to the Prime Minister to set out our priorities, including the delivery of the full Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) network. I know that you are a proponent of the value of rail connectivity in delivering value to local economies and communities, and the value of the East Coast Mainline, and I remember my visit as Transport Secretary to look at the problems on specific sections of the A1 with you.

Transport for the North (TfN) is in the process of refreshing our statutory Strategic Transport Plan (STP) that sets out an evidence-based, cross-party ambition for the North. As such, it is the basis for our recommendations to Government on investment priorities.

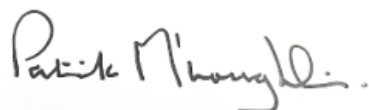
In addition, TfN works collaboratively with the Department for Transport (DfT), through the Rail North Partnership (RNP), to oversee the delivery of services by our two largest train operators – Northern and Trans-Pennine Express. Our on-going work through the Manchester Task Force is an example of collaborative working in practice.

Furthermore, our experience of devolution through the RNP provides us with the knowledge and insight to represent the collective view of the North to speak with 'One Voice' for the region. With passenger and freight flows returning faster and stronger than elsewhere in the country, it is clear that the rail system will continue to be central to unlocking the full potential of the North's economy. It is in this light that TfN Members would like to work with you to deliver on the shared ambitions within the Integrated Rail Plan (IRP), while also helping deliver on the new Prime Minister's desire for £43 billion Northern Powerhouse Rail project.

Lastly, there is an active programme of meetings hosted by the Transport Across the North APPG AGM, chaired by Andrew Jones MP. We are hosting a meeting on the evening of Tuesday 13 September in the Terrace Dining Room B of the House of Commons, and we are also holding a fringe meeting at the Conservative Party Conference with Mayor Ben Houchen on the morning of 4th October, and we would be delighted to have your attendance at either or both to hear how we can work together to unlock the potential and prosperity of the North. Alternatively, I would be happy to meet you at your earliest convenience to discuss these and other priorities.

TfN looks forward to working with you to ensure that we make progress with our shared ambition to see investment delivered to the benefit of our residents and businesses. Furthermore, please find a copy of the letter I sent to the Prime Minister enclosed.

Yours sincerely,



Lord McLoughlin CH
Chairman, Transport for the North