

AN INFRASTRUCTURE REVOLUTION

TRANSPENNINE ROUTE UPGRADE MODERN RAIL LINES AT THE HEART OF NORTHERN ENGLAND

The TransPennine Route, which has connected Manchester, Leeds and York since the 19th century, has suffered from underinvestment in previous years. As a result, services have been subject to frequent cancellations and overcrowding, and roads have become the only option for many.

As part of its plans to deliver an 'infrastructure revolution' and level up the economy across Britain, the Government has committed to a number of major transport projects, including the **TransPennine Route Upgrade** which will increase capacity and provide faster and more reliable train services. This will complement the [High Speed 2 \(HS2\)](#) and Northern Powerhouse Rail projects.

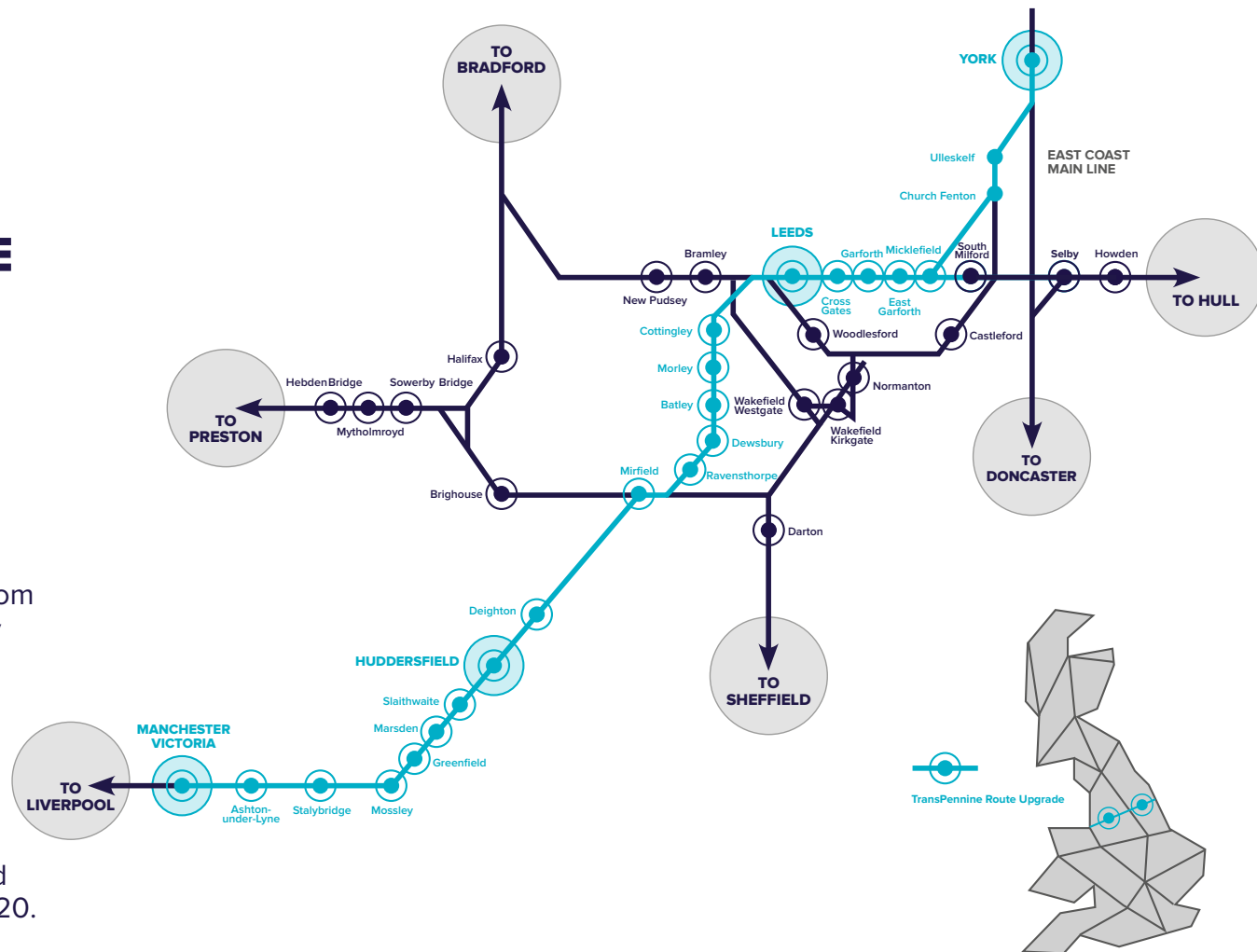


WHAT IS THE TRANSPENNINE ROUTE UPGRADE?

The TransPennine Route Upgrade is a series of improvements to the existing TransPennine Route, currently scheduled to be delivered in stages with the first benefits from 2024. It will consist of:

- Major upgrades to stations at Huddersfield, Deighton, Mirfield, and Ravensthorpe
- Electrifying and doubling the number of tracks from two to four between Huddersfield and Dewsbury
- Replacing stretches of track to support modern carriages and more frequent services
- Installing new signalling systems and improving access to stations.

The TransPennine Route Upgrade is a multi-billion pound project, of which £589 million was allocated by Government to ‘kickstart’ the project in July 2020.



Delivering an Infrastructure Revolution

Whilst economic and social infrastructure projects are often in the headlines due to the amount of money spent on them and the disruption caused during their construction, they generate huge long-term benefits. By providing better local services, new jobs, cleaner air and faster connections, modern infrastructure helps to level up opportunity and prosperity across the UK.

Build UK's factsheets cover a range of local and national projects explaining what they are and why they are being built in Britain today.



WHY WE NEED THE TRANSPENNINE ROUTE UPGRADE

The TransPennine Route Upgrade aims to create a rail system at the heart of the North that truly opens up economic opportunity. The programme of improvements will:

- Enhance capacity on the existing TransPennine Route, both for passenger and freight services, joining up with HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail
- Improve the frequency and reliability of services, both for local and inter-city routes
- Reduce journey times, particularly between rural and suburban stations and their nearest economic centres in the North, making commuting by rail a reasonable option for many.

TRANSPENNINE ROUTE UPGRADE IN NUMBERS



£2.9bn
estimated investment



122km
of track



400,000
people connected to major
urban centres in the North

KEY ISSUES

- The project is still in the consultation phase, and there is currently **no consensus** on how best to schedule and carry out the works.
- Line closures during redevelopment works could cause major **disruption** for passengers, particularly those from smaller and more isolated areas who rely on the local services along the TransPennine Route.
- There is debate around how much of the track will be electrified, with some arguing the **cost** allocated for partial electrification could be used to electrify a wider stretch of the line or even the entire route.
- The Government has pledged to accelerate **Northern Powerhouse Rail**, but it's not clear what impact this will have on delivering the TransPennine Route Upgrade.

WHO WILL BENEFIT?

Passengers

- Reduced journey times and more reliable services
- Upgrade works will increase capacity on the route by over 300%, from 845 seats per hour to around 3,000
- Expanding the number of tracks will allow passenger and freight services to be divided, reducing delays and improving reliability.

The Economy

- Faster and more reliable services will encourage commuting and allow people to work across a wider geographical area
- Catchment areas around stations on the TransPennine Route account for a total of over 350,000 jobs, with over 400,000 people living along the route and outside the urban centres of York, Leeds and Manchester
- Combined with the wider programme of investments across Northern Powerhouse Rail and HS2, connectivity across Northern England will be significantly upgraded.

The Environment

- More journeys taken by rail will help the UK reach its 2050 net-zero carbon objectives
- Electrified services produce around 30% less carbon emissions per mile than regular trains, significantly reducing the carbon footprint of the TransPennine Route
- Increased numbers of people taking journeys by rail will reduce congestion on key national roads such as the M1 and M62.



Further Information

Department for Transport (2020) [£589 Million to Kickstart Rail Upgrades](#)

Illuminas (2020) [TRU Research Report](#)

West Yorkshire Combined Authority (2018) [TRU Upgrade: Technical Note](#)

Find out more

www.NetworkRail.co.uk

Contact us

www.BuildUK.org

