

Hope Valley Railway upgrade now accompanied by community-focused app

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VolkerRailStory joint venture is using the latest technology to keep local residents up to date on work it is carrying out in the community.

People are now able to access an app which will provide updates on the railway upgrade works between Manchester and Sheffield.

The upgrade is a key part of the Hope Valley Railway Upgrade, which is going ahead to remove several bottlenecks along the Hope Valley line, enabling faster and more reliable journeys for passengers.

Created with app developer Site Podium, the app provides a more targeted platform for specific updates on the major railway upgrade.

As part of the project's wider communication strategy to ensure effective engagement with the local community, the app will provide regular updates to those living and working near the project's construction sites, allowing for a better understanding of the work.

On downloading the app, users can choose to be notified of upcoming construction dates, project milestones, and job vacancies, as well as community and environmental initiatives.

The app also contains contact and feedback sections for questions and allows for enquires to be sent directly to the project team, which can be answered in real time.

Darren Lockwood, project director from VolkerRailStory, said: “As we deliver the Hope Valley Railway Upgrade for our client Network Rail, it is vital that we strive to be a good neighbour and ensure ongoing communication with those living and working near to the project.

“Complementing the project’s existing communication tools, such as community information events and letter drops, we hope that the app will provide an easy-to-use platform where residents can get quick and regular updates on the progress of work.”

The app is available to download for both Android and Apple devices. To download the app, search ‘Hope Valley Railway Upgrade’ in Google Play for Android devices, or the App Store for Apple devices.