

In The News | 21st August 2023 | Latest Rail News

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Taking High Speed 2 (HS2) trains across the path of existing freight rail routes between Birmingham and Crewe took a step closer last week with completion of a new bridge structure near Lichfield.

An article from New Civil Engineer said Construction of the Streethay overbridge was undertaken during a 10 week blockade of the South Staffordshire freight railway and delivered by HS2 joint venture contractor

Balfour Beatty Vinci (BBV) to designs completed by Mott MacDonald as part of its involvement in the joint venture, which also includes Systra.

The work involved offline construction of the 2,600t bridge deck for the 25m long, 18m wide Streethay overbridge and moving it 130m into its final position using self-propelled modular transporters.

A new £2.7m rail safety centre has opened in Huddersfield as part of the multibillion-pound Transpennine Route Upgrade (TRU).

An article on Insider Media said the Transpennine Route Upgrade Safety Training (TRUST) Centre will include actors staging immersive emergency situations, a rumbling floor for recognising incoming trains from a distance and various other multi-sensory rooms.

The approach is designed to approach allow participants to witness an incident in real-time, encounter the decisions that led to a fatal situation and evaluate how to stop it from happening in future.

Network Rail has appointed Jake Kelly as its new managing director of its Eastern region.

The news follows last week's appointment of the current Eastern region MD – Rob McIntosh – to MD North West and Central region, and the confirmation of Ellie Burrows as MD Southern region.

Commenting on his appointment, Jake said his priority will be on delivering for Eastern regions passengers and freight customers and building on the existing positive engagement with regional stakeholders.

[Read the full story here.](#)

Finally, a group of 12 people from across West Yorkshire that have been long-term unemployed are set to begin a three-week training programme with the train operator Northern next week.

They are the latest in-take to Northern's 'Get Into Rail' scheme, which was open to anyone aged 18 and over that was receiving Universal Credit.

At the end of the course, attendees are guaranteed an interview for roles advertised at Northern – with the train operator hoping the experience gained will help break the cycle of unemployment.

Northern says anyone interested in applying for future in-takes of the programme should speak to their work coach at the Job Centre.