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HS2 trains should operate to the south-west of England with the development of a high-speed network shaped like an 'X', a report has recommended.

An article in The Times says the study, published yesterday, said that railway lines should be upgraded to allow high-speed trains to operate to more towns and cities than proposed.

The study by Greengauge 21, a not-for-profit company, said this could be achieved by electrifying lines and increasing the maximum speed from 125mph to 140mph.

Plans to expand Edinburgh's tram network and establish a "metro" system in Glasgow as part of a joined-up sustainable transport vision are to be prioritised by ministers.

An article in The Herald says the two projects, which have previously been touted, have been included in the Scottish Government's transport investment priorities for the next 20 years.

In Glasgow, the metro plans will include connecting the city with "the immediate surrounding areas".

Plans have also recognised the need for "the creation of light rail/metro system from Glasgow Airport to Glasgow Central Station".

The number of London transport workers to die with COVID-19 is approaching 70, it was revealed yesterday in the Evening Standard.

The paper reports that Transport for London said it was aware of 69 staff and contractors having died in the pandemic, including 43 bus drivers.

TfL commissioner Andy Byford has called for transport staff to be made a priority for the next phase of the vaccine roll-out.

Finally, GB Railfreight has announced a landmark cooperation with Bayer Environmental Science, Network Rail, and a number of start-up companies, which will transform essential weed control maintenance on the UK's railways.

Three new Smart Weed System trains will commence service on the British railway network later this spring with the capability to eliminate potentially dangerous weed infestations with advanced precision.

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Photo credit: GB Railfreight