

Latest Rail Director goes online: Laura Shoaf on working towards a world-class system

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The chief executive of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) says the region is right in the middle of a rail renaissance.

Laura Shoaf, who features on this month's Rail Director cover, spoke with the magazine shortly after being recognised for her work for WMCA, Urban Transport Group, Severn Valley Railway and Transport for West Midlands.

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She told the magazine: "I have been fortunate to work with amazing people in my career, and it is only because of them that I am being recognised. The passion of my colleagues is what has helped drive the investment in transport systems and regeneration in the West Midlands, connecting people to jobs, to schools, and universities, to their families and connecting communities to each other.

"I am so proud of the work we have all done, and continue to do, to make the West Midlands a better-connected region."

Featuring alongside Laura in the latest edition of the magazine that covers everything from track to train are the new chair of Transport for the North Lord McLoughlin and UKTram's managing director James Hammett.

We've also taken a look behind the scenes of London's new Elizabeth line, Network Rail's David Castlo talks about the technology being developed to help preserve Victorian railway tunnels and we've had a chat with the new president of Scottish Engineering Aine Finlayson.

Hard copies of the magazine have arrived at more than 2,200 rail industry leaders and subscribers. [If you too would like a hard copy of the magazine delivered to your door, click here.](#)

Chris Wiles, who leads the RBD Publications advertising sales team, said: "Even more people can now read the latest edition of Rail Director. I hope you enjoy it as much as those who receive the hard copies have been.

"Work is well underway on the next edition with some high-profile interviews and the big topics of the UK rail industry being lined up. There is limited space still available to feature, so I'd recommend anyone wanting to get in touch sooner rather than later."

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