

Railway industry message to Transport Secretary ahead of speech on Tuesday

October 3, 2022



On the eve of Transport Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan's speech at the Conservative Party conference in Birmingham, the [Railway Industry Association](#) (RIA) has called on the Government to provide more certainty on rail restructuring, enhancements, major projects and long-term funding plans.

This certainty will ensure rail has the funding it needs and that the potential for private investment is unleashed, meaning the industry will be able to do even more to generate economic growth.

RIA says that the Government can help by:

1. **Confirming the timing for Great British Railways (GBR) restructuring.** Whilst RIA and its members acknowledge we have a new Transport Secretary and Rail Minister and that they will need time to bed in to their new roles, the railway industry really does need confirmation now of when and how the new Government intends to establish GBR. The current ambiguity risks causing a hiatus in rail work.
2. **Publishing the Rail Network Enhancement Pipeline (RNEP).** The Government said it would publish this pipeline of work every year, but it has been almost three years since the last iteration was made public.
3. **Confirm the timeline and scope of major projects.** The uncertainty and speculation around projects such as HS2, East West Rail and Northern Powerhouse Rail damages confidence and jeopardises investment. The Government needs to provide clarity on the status of all elements of these projects.
4. **Confirm CP7 funding.** The industry requires certainty on funding to invest long-term, up to the end of the decade, which is why the Government really needs to confirm the funding available for Control Period 7 (CP7) as soon as possible.

Commenting, RIA's Chief Executive Darren Caplan said: "UK rail is well positioned to support the Government in its mission to boost economic growth, with the industry contributing £43bn of GVA, supporting 710,000 jobs, providing £14bn in tax revenues to the Treasury, and generating £2.50 in the wider economy for every pound spent on the railway sector.

"But rail's potential to deliver economic growth will be hampered by uncertainty and ambiguity if we do not get confirmation of the Government's plans.

"As the new Transport Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan prepares to address the Conservative Party conference in Birmingham, we urge her and her colleagues in Government to provide the clarity the railway industry needs on Great British Railways, the Rail Network Enhancements Pipeline, major projects and long-term funding.

"By doing so, the Government would not only help to unleash the potential of rail to help drive economic growth, it would also provide a boost to connectivity and capacity, which the country is going to need in future if it is to link and level up communities across the UK."

Photo credit: Railway Industry Association