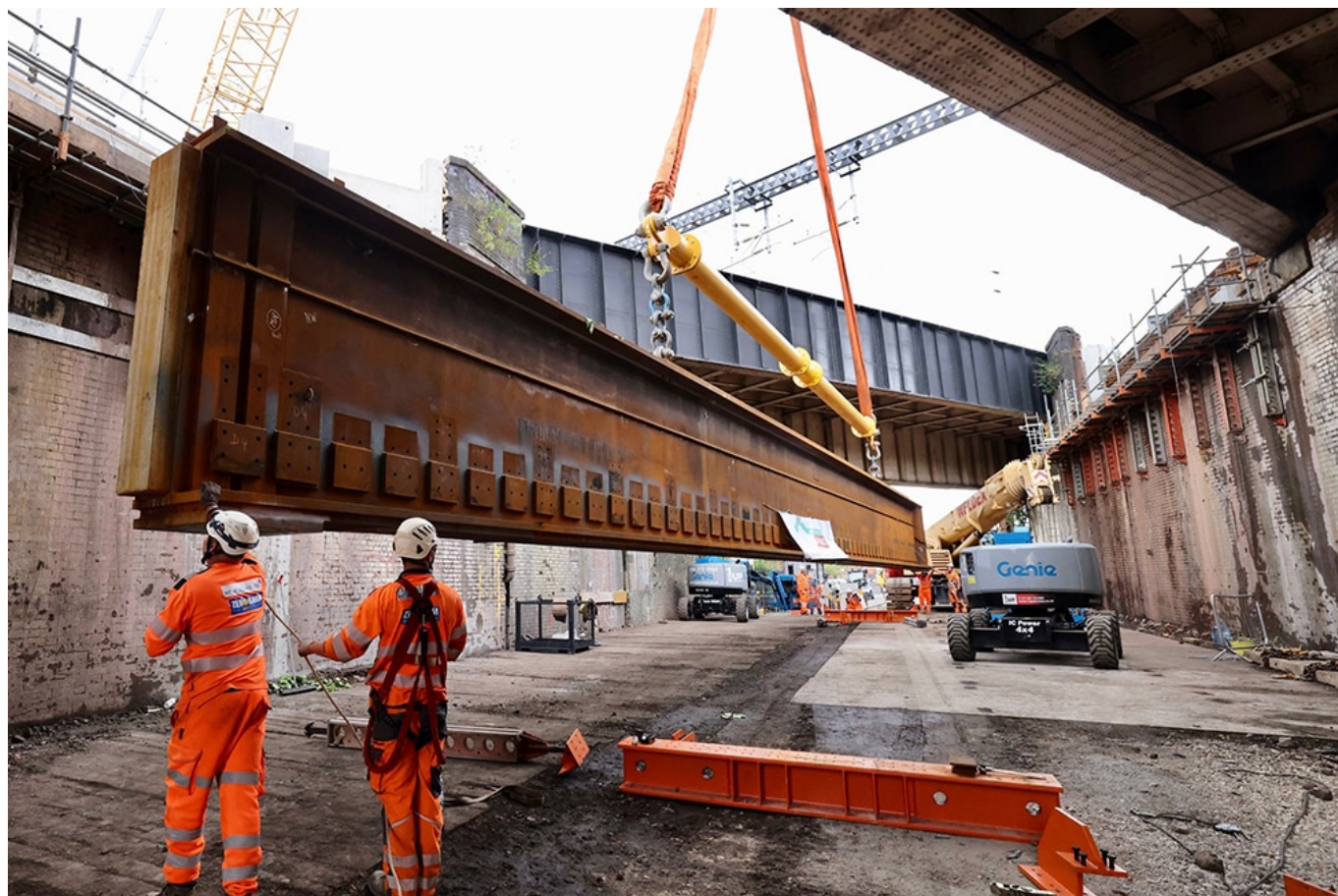


RIA asks Government to publish Rail Network Enhancements Pipeline urgently, as two year milestone is passed

October 21, 2021



It is now exactly two years since the Government last published its Rail Network Enhancements Pipeline (RNEP), the list of around £9bn of improvements to the railways.

The RNEP contains almost 60 enhancement projects which Network Rail is expected to deliver during Control Period 6 (2019-24). Although the Department for Transport (DfT) pledged to update the RNEP annually, today (Thursday 21 October 2021) marks two years since the last update.

RIA has previously highlighted that the delay to these plans has so far resulted in at least £1bn being cut from the rail enhancements budget, as the Government's planned investments will not be delivered by March 2024, when Control Period 6 ends.

The list previously included a wide range of projects, some of which have seen progress announcements, like Transpennine Route Upgrade, and some, like Heathrow Western Rail Link, have not.

Darren Caplan, Chief Executive of the Railway Industry Association (RIA), said: “It has been now two years – 730 days – since the Rail Network Enhancements Pipeline was last updated. Rail businesses feel they are being kept in the dark on this, as they need certainty to plan and invest for the future, especially given the long-term and complex nature of railway infrastructure projects.

“If the Government wants the UK’s railways to help it build back better and greener, creating jobs and levelling up, it really does need to provide more visibility and certainty around rail enhancement schemes. This would also mean better value for the taxpayer, as schemes are delivered more cost-effectively when rail suppliers have the certainty they need to plan their teams and resources well in advance. We respectfully ask the latest version of the RNEP be published as quickly as possible.”

Photo credit: Railway Industry Association