

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
House of Commons
SW1A 0AA

XXX 2021

Businesses are united behind the Midlands Rail Hub – it's time to deliver

Dear Prime Minister,

We write to you as XX business leaders from across the Midlands region, to call for the delivery of your manifesto pledge to 'invest in the Midlands Rail Hub', committing this Government to funding the first phase of this major infrastructure project.

The Midlands Rail Hub is a package of improvements to our rail network that will allow faster, more frequent journeys and new rail connections for over 25 locations, creating 12 million more seats for passengers and making space for over a million more lorries' worth of cargo to be transported by rail each year.

As we look to build back better following the COVID-19 pandemic, this project will reduce emissions – each person or parcel moved by train rather than road produces 70% less CO2 – and support our economic recovery, safeguarding and creating 1,600 jobs during its construction.

Our reliance on creaking Victorian railway infrastructure is stopping us from reaching our full potential; poor connectivity limits our access to skilled employees and is making it difficult for businesses to form strong working relationships with partners across the Midlands and beyond. Given the slow, infrequent train links connecting our region, it's no surprise that fewer than one in five east-west trips is made by rail. This has to change, for the sake of our productivity, trade and the future of our planet.

We call on you to set the wheels in motion and to provide the Midlands region with the financial and practical resources it needs to kickstart the delivery of Midlands Rail Hub. An investment in this project is not only an investment in businesses, industry and our future success, but will also catalyse additional private sector investment, further enhancing its impact. Given the pressures of the last 18 months, it's essential we get started now, and that you deliver on the pledges made in 2019's Conservative Party Manifesto.

Your full commitment now means that Birmingham, Coventry, Leicester, Derby, Hereford, Bromsgrove, Kings Norton, Worcester, Tamworth, Cheltenham and many more locations can begin to see the benefits of an improved and future-proofed network as soon as 2027, with the full project delivered by 2030.

The time is now for Government to level up the Midlands and deliver the Midlands Rail Hub.

Yours sincerely,
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