

Northern Hub

The Northern Hub is Network Rail's plan to stimulate economic growth by upgrading the rail network of the North. It is about targeted investment to allow the region to continue to thrive.

How will we do this?

- Two new platforms at Manchester Piccadilly to allow more trains to run through rather than terminate in Manchester, providing more direct train services across the North
- The Ordsall Chord to provide a link between Manchester Victoria and Manchester Piccadilly and allow for the new route across the city. Importantly there will be no need to change trains in Manchester. This was funded by the government in March 2011
- New tracks on the line between Leeds and Liverpool and between Sheffield and Manchester to allow fast trains between the major towns and cities of the North to overtake slower trains
- In advance of these works, Manchester Victoria will undergo transformation to a single transport interchange that is safer, better and more spacious.

Driving economic growth

- £560m of targeted infrastructure investment to help the North continue to thrive
- Over £4bn worth of benefits to the region and potentially 20,000 to 30,000 new jobs
- Improved railway will allow us to double the capacity of trains into the Trafford Park freight terminals.
- £4 boost to the economy for every £1 spent

Faster, more frequent

- Up to 700 more trains per day with space for 44 million more people to travel by train each year
- Two new fast trains per hour between Manchester Victoria and Liverpool and journey times could be reduced by 10-15 minutes
- Six fast trains an hour between Leeds and Manchester (as opposed to four now) and journey times could be reduced by about 10 minutes
- A new direct service through Manchester city centre to Manchester Airport
- Faster journey times to Sheffield and the East Midlands, Chester, Bradford, Halifax, Hull, Newcastle and the North-East

Benefits to business

- Access to bigger markets; ability to recruit from a wider pool of talent and enable staff to commute more quickly, greater flexibility and improved business efficiency.
- The Hub will provide the capability to ease road congestion by doubling capacity into the North's busiest intermodal container terminal at Trafford Park.
- Businesses say there is a need for more freight capacity to transport goods sustainably and cost-effectively around the country. Every freight train takes 50 containers off our heavily congested roads

Next steps

- Now that the Northern Hub has been fully funded, the next stage is to move forward into the detailed design phase and start work on the schemes as quickly as possible.
- The infrastructure is scheduled to be in place to enable all the services to operate by 2018.

www.networkrail.co.uk/north

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FEBRUARY 2010	MARCH 2011	SEPTEMBER 2011	NOVEMBER 2011	MARCH 2012	JULY 2012
Northern Hub proposal launched by Network Rail	Chancellor announced funding for Ordsall Chord, a key link in central Manchester and first part of Northern Hub	Northern Hub plan submitted to government as part of Initial Industry Plan	Funding announced for electrification of north transpennine between Manchester and York via Leeds	Chancellor announced funding for quicker journeys between Manchester, Sheffield, Rochdale and Preston as second part of Northern Hub	High level output specification announced full funding for Northern Hub project

Northern Hub

- 700 extra trains per day
- Capacity for 44 million passengers

