

Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum policy conference:

Next steps for urban transport and regional connectivity in England

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 25th February 2025

Taking Place Online



WESTMINSTER ENERGY
ENVIRONMENT &
TRANSPORT FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Key considerations for urban transport and regional connectivity in England moving forward**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Priorities for improving connections between regions**
Senior representative, regional transport
- 9.45 **Next steps for major transport infrastructure and connectivity between England's regions**
planning and delivering major projects | reducing infrastructure costs and delays | next steps for Northern Powerhouse Rail and regional connectivity post-HS2 phase 2 | developing effective collaboration between central government and regional mayors | improving road and rail connectivity | streamlining planning decision to improve the delivery of projects | lessons from previous schemes | taking community and passenger concerns into account
Louise Coward, Head, Insight and Evidence, Transport Focus
Senior representative, roads
Senior representative, planning
Senior representative, investment
Senior representative, transport operator
- 10.15 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Alex Mayer MP, Secretary, APPG for Bus and Coach
- 11.05 **Reforming urban transport systems in regionally devolved combined authorities - priorities moving forward**
Vernon Everitt, Transport Commissioner, Greater Manchester Combined Authority
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.30 **Assessing the Better Buses Bill - key challenges and opportunities associated with municipal bus ownership**
Senior representative, bus
- 11.40 **Key findings from the Rail and Urban Transport Review - meeting ambitions for the future of urban transport**
Senior representative, urban transport
- 11.50 **Developing integrated urban transport systems and the future of transport within regions**
creating integrated London-style urban transport systems | early lessons from Greater Manchester | decarbonising local transport | the impact so far of increased devolution | responsibilities of combined authorities over urban transport | ensuring effective accountability | assessing funding priorities for local transport | how to deliver improved bus services following proposals outlined in the Better Buses Bill | connecting suburbs and newly built housing developments with city centres
Stacey White, Head, Mass Transit, Place and Consents, West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Steve Hunter, Bus Regulatory Reform Lead, Steer
Chris Bruntlett, International Relations Manager, Dutch Cycling Embassy
Senior representative, legal
- 12.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Policy priorities for connecting England's regions and urban transport systems**
Jessica Matthew, Director, Local and Regional Transport Strategy, Department for Transport
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum closing remarks**
Alex Mayer MP, Secretary, APPG for Bus and Coach
Jordan Nugara, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum