

## Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum policy conference:

### Next steps for urban transport and regional connectivity in England

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025

\*\*\*Taking place online\*\*\*



WESTMINSTER ENERGY  
ENVIRONMENT &  
TRANSPORT FORUM

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Baroness Jo Valentine**
- 9.05 **Key considerations for urban transport and regional connectivity in England moving forward**  
**Dr Larissa Marioni**, Principal Economist, National Institute of Economic and Social Research  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Priorities for improving connections between regions**  
**Andrew Summers**, Chief Executive, Transport East
- 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  
**Robert Catherall**, Head, Bus and Rail, Oxera  
**Chris Nutton**, Major Projects Director, TransPennine Express  
**Richard Leonard**, Director, Network Planning, National Highways  
**Paul Walker**, Head, Passenger Transport, Portsmouth City Council
- 10.15 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Thomas Howard**, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Alex Mayer MP**, Member, Transport Select Committee; and Secretary, All Party Parliamentary Group for the Bus and Coach Industry
- 11.05 **'DfT's priorities for regional and urban transport'**  
**Jessica Matthew**, Director, Local and Regional Transport Strategy, Department for Transport  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.30 **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
- 11.50 **Exploring risks and opportunity as the bus industry adopts franchising**  
**Gary Hitchmough**, Chief Growth Officer, First Bus
- 12.00 **'The future of rail and the role of devolution'**  
**Jason Prince**, Director, Urban Transport Group
- 12.10 **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 Bus Services Bill | connecting suburbs and newly built housing developments with city centres*  
**Charlotte Robinson**, Senior Associate, Burges Salmon  
**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
- 12.30 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum closing remarks**  
**Alex Mayer MP**, Member, Transport Select Committee; and Secretary, All Party Parliamentary Group for the Bus and Coach Industry  
**Thomas Howard**, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum