



The voice of the UK rail supply community

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6 July 2020

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP

Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London SW1A 2HQ

Copied in: Financial Secretary Jesse Norman MP, Transport Secretary Grant Shapps MP, Business Secretary Alok Sharma MP, Rail Minister Chris Heaton-Harris MP, IPA Chief Executive Nick Smallwood

Dear Chancellor,

Re: Open Letter - Speed Up Rail Enhancements (SURE) schemes

I am writing to you ahead of your speech on 8 July 2020, where you will set out the UK Government's economic response following the Coronavirus outbreak. As the UK seeks to recover from the pandemic, I would urge you – on behalf of the Railway Industry Association (RIA), the trade body for the UK rail supply community – to speed up rail projects across the country.

Rail investment is crucial to the UK and, as part of the economic recovery it offers three crucial benefits:

- **Growth:** Rail projects generate significant investment – for every £1 spent on the rail network, £2.20 is generated in the wider economy;
- **Geography:** Rail projects support investment in all regions and nations of the UK, including areas of social deprivation where investment and regeneration is urgently needed – supporting the Government's 'levelling up' agenda; and
- **Green:** Rail is a green mode of transport and investing in rail will ensure the economic recovery is also an environmentally beneficial one.

Today, RIA is launching stage two of our '**Speed Up Rail Enhancements' (SURE) campaign**, which identifies key rail infrastructure projects that can be sped up (stage 1 successfully sought publication of the enhancements list last October). As part of the campaign, we urge the Government to **fast track and fund these projects through the Rail Network Enhancements Pipeline** and to provide updated information on the timeline of these schemes. Doing this means rail suppliers can plan and build their project teams, and ultimately enables them to deliver a world-class rail network in the months and years ahead, benefiting not just rail but UK plc more widely, its economy and long-term connectivity.

RIA welcomes the Government commitment to infrastructure and to reducing the bureaucracy around decision-making and delivery. The railway industry now stands ready to help Government roll out its 'building back better' agenda, and we look forward to working with you and your colleagues across Government departments to see how rail can be part of the UK's economic recovery. Speeding up delivery of these enhancements schemes is a necessary first step to making this happen.

Yours sincerely,

Darren Caplan
Chief Executive, Railway Industry Association