

Welcome michael.daventry@btp.pnn.police.uk

Log out

Search the site

ENTER TEXT HERE

TRANSPORT

Briefing

Front page

News & analysis

Intelligence & resources

Agenda & monitors

Power 200

Subscribe

About

News

Analysis

Osborne finds £130m for Northern Hub part two

Posted 21/03/12

Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne has used his 2012 Budget to fund works required as part of the Northern Hub programme.

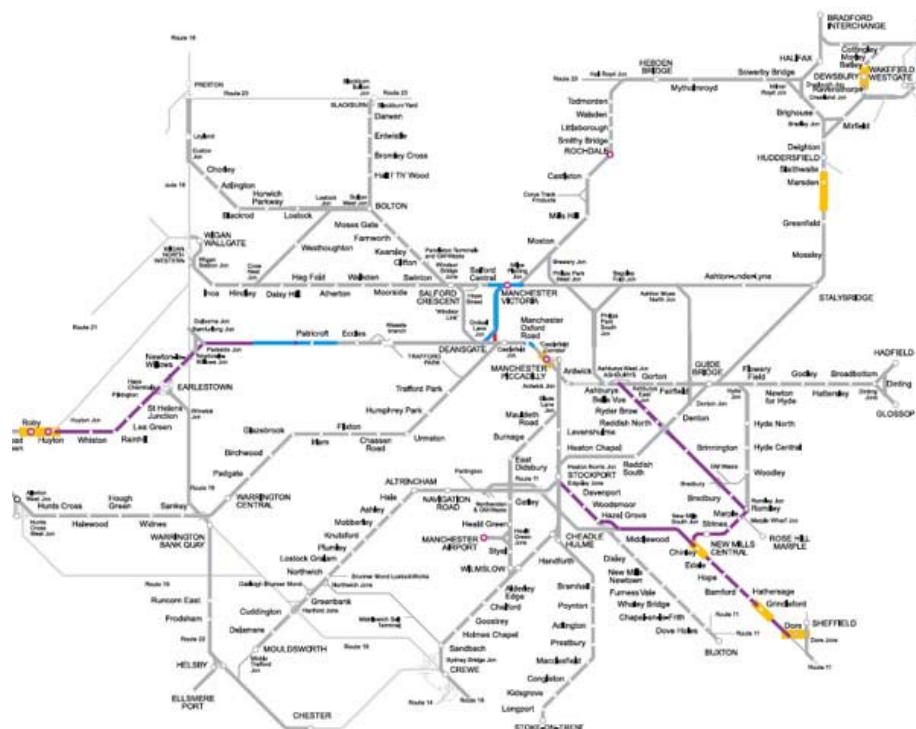
A sum of £130m has been set aside by government to pay for three elements of the scheme. Line speeds and capacity on the Hope Valley line between Manchester and Sheffield will be enhanced with additional track at Chinley, new loops at Dore and Grindelford, and an additional platform at Dore. When work is completed it will be possible to double the number of fast trains operating between Manchester and Sheffield. Line speeds will also be increased on the Manchester-Bradford (via Rochdale and Halifax) and Manchester-Preston (via Bolton) lines.

This week's announcement follows the award of £85m in the Chancellor's 2011 Budget to build the Ordsall Chord in Manchester city centre (TB 7542), another part of the Northern Hub programme, and means to date £215m has been pledged towards a scheme previously estimated to cost £530m in total.

Speaking in the House of Commons on Wednesday (21 March) George Osborne said: "I confirm today that Network Rail will extend the Northern Hub, adding to the electrification of the transpennine rail route, by upgrading the Hope Valley line between Manchester and Sheffield - and improving the Manchester to Preston and Blackpool, and Manchester to Bradford lines."

Network Rail chief executive David Higgins welcomed the news. "Today's announcement of further funding for the initial stages of the Northern Hub is a welcome show of confidence in rail bringing benefits to passengers as well as driving economic growth. To realise the project's total value of £4bn to the Northern economy and create between 20,000 and 30,000 new jobs, the final stages of funding will need to be supported in the rail budgets to be announced later this year."

The full Northern Hub scheme will provide capacity to run 700 extra trains a day, allowing 3.5 million more people to travel by rail every year and doubling capacity into the Trafford Park freight terminals.



RELATED ARTICLES

Northern cities call for Treasury Hub commitment
 RGF2: Todmorden seventies revival bill agreed
 Northern Hub consultation begins in Manchester
 Initial Industry Plan for 2014-19 railway...
 Northern railway strategy backs Hub investment
 £200m rail windfall gets Northern Hub started
 MPs call for economic transport strategy plan
 Northern Hub case made in next generation RUS
 High Speed 2 poised to alter Northern Hub plans
 Hammond: wait and see for regional transport...

■ News index ■ Front page