



Department  
for Transport

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Our Ref: 411189

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Chris Bell  
11 Clarke Street  
Sheffield

Email: [chris153@btinternet.com](mailto:chris153@btinternet.com)

Dear Chris

### **Stocksbridge (Don Valley Line)**

Thank you for your email of 12 September 2022 about the Stocksbridge (Don Valley Line) Restoring your Railway scheme. We appreciate your support for the scheme and the benefits from potential re-opening this route to passenger services. As you will understand, the Transport Secretary receives a large amount of correspondence each day and so it has been passed to me to respond.

In January 2020, the Government pledged £500 million for the Restoring Your Railway Fund, to start reopening lines and stations in order to reconnect smaller communities, regenerate local economies and improve access to jobs, homes and education.

One aspect of Restoring Your Railway is the Ideas Fund, which provides development funding for early stage ideas to reopen lines and stations. We received a successful bid in the third round of the Ideas Fund to upgrade Don Valley line for passenger services to use existing freight route.

The Doncaster-Askern line scheme will be assessed against the Restoring Your Railway policy aims of levelling up and reconnecting communities, along with socio-economic benefits, transport benefits, deliverability, impact on the existing railway, infrastructure requirements and support for the proposal.

In the coming months, the Department looks forward to receiving the scheme's Strategic Outline Business Case as part of the third round of the Restoring Your Railway Ideas Fund. Officials will be in touch with the sponsoring MP, Miriam Cates MP, and SYMCA as the promoter, once a decision is made on whether or not to advance the scheme to the next stage of development.

You raise important points about traffic and air pollution in regard to road usage. In 2019, the Government made a legal commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, in line with the recommendations of the Committee on Climate Change (CCC).

The Government is committed to going further and faster to tackle climate change. This is why we have now published our bold and ambitious Transport Decarbonisation Plan (TDP), which sets out our commitments and the actions needed to decarbonise the entire transport system in the UK.

Beyond the Restoring Your Railway programme, this Government believes that local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) are best placed to decide on, and take forward, transport schemes that will most benefit their local area.

Yours sincerely

Kaeden Bunting  
Restoring Your Railway team