



**Don Valley
Railway**

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12 September 2022

The Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Great Minster House,
33, Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

c/c
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority
11, Broad Street West, Sheffield, S1 2BQ

Dear Secretary of State,

**RE: DON VALLEY LINE (Sheffield – Stocksbridge) Restoring Your Railways
Strategic Outline Business Case – A letter of support.**

As lead campaigner with Don Valley Railway, the campaign to introduce passenger services on the freight railway line between Sheffield and Stocksbridge in South Yorkshire, can I wish you well in your new ministerial role at this sad time for the country on behalf of our group.

I would also wish to make you aware of our absolute support for the bid by South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) to the Restoring Your Railway Fund for the Don Valley Line for which you will be receiving the Strategic Outline Business Case shortly.

For many years it has been acknowledged by residents of the communities of the Upper Don Valley that the adverse impact of traffic and travel is rising and that this lightly utilised rail line offers a potential opportunity to sustainably improve access to, through and within the area.

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Don Valley Railway have led efforts to bring this to fruition. With this bid SYMCA are providing an unprecedented opportunity to achieve this, and the Restoring Your Railways bid presents an excellent way that this can be realised.

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Don Valley Railway has demonstrated virtually unanimous support for its aims locally. We are supported by all political parties including our Local MP, Miriam Cates. We are supported by Sheffield City Council and included within its developing Local Plan. A petition that attracted 3000 local signatories was presented to Sheffield City Council in 2014. Stocksbridge Town Council and Bradfield Parish Council support us. We are also supported by Stocksbridge Towns Fund Board and are working with them to bring better transport integration to the Upper Don Valley. market research undertaken by them reiterated the strength of support locally.

With the re-instated railway in place we believe that this will super-charge current work being undertaken as part of Sheffield – The Outdoor City, to promote this area on the edge of Peak District National Park, and by Stocksbridge Towns Fund Board to transform and upgrade the quality of life and the environment in the area by offering much more sustainable carbon-neutral travel options.

We also believe that the introduction of the line through a re-opened Sheffield Victoria Station provide an immense opportunity to be the catalyst to extend those benefits beyond the Upper Don Valley across the whole city region of Sheffield.

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Therefore we wholeheartedly support SYMCA's bid for the Don Valley Line, and seek that it is taken forward to the next stage by the Department for Transport, and, look forward to the project coming to fruition very soon.

We hope that we can count on you to view SYMCA's bid favourably as this will make a real difference to the communities of Stocksbridge and Upper Don Valley and extend beyond across the whole city region of Sheffield.

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Your Sincerely



CHRIS BELL
Don Valley Railway