

Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum policy conference:

Next steps for urban transport and regional connectivity in England

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 25th February 2025

Taking Place Online



WESTMINSTER ENERGY
ENVIRONMENT &
TRANSPORT FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Key considerations for urban transport and regional connectivity in England moving forward**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Priorities for improving connections between regions**
Senior representative, regional transport
- 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
Senior representative, roads
Senior representative, planning
Senior representative, investment
Senior representative, transport operator
Senior representative, service users
- 10.15 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.05 **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
- 11.30 **Assessing the Better Buses Bill - key challenges and opportunities associated with municipal bus ownership**
Senior representative, bus
- 11.40 **Key findings from the Rail and Urban Transport Review - meeting ambitions for the future of urban transport**
Senior representative, urban transport
- 11.50 **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 Better Buses Bill | connecting suburbs and newly built housing developments with city centres
Senior representative, legal
Senior representative, planning
Senior representative, active travel
Senior representative, local authority
- 12.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Policy priorities for connecting England's regions and urban transport systems**
Jessica Matthew, Co-Director, Local Transport Directorate, Department for Transport
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Jordan Nugara, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum