



West
Yorkshire
Combined
Authority

Tracy
Brabin
Mayor of
West Yorkshire

Mass Transit Briefing: Ward Councillors

March 2024



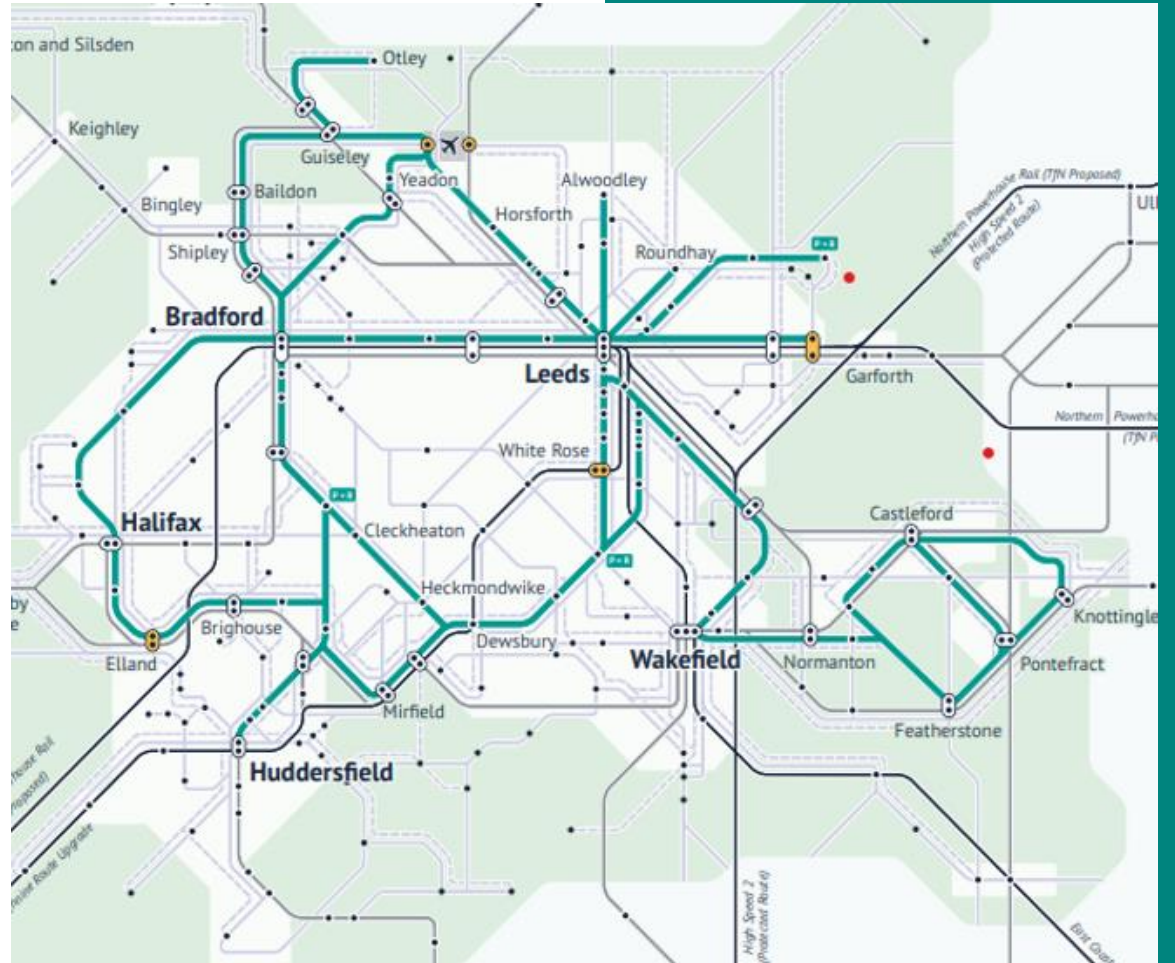
What is West Yorkshire Mass Transit?

Mass transit is a large-scale public transport system in an urban area. Typically, mass transit would use one or more of modern high-capacity buses, trams or tram-train type vehicles.

West Yorkshire Mass Transit will be centred around five of the region's largest urban and Metropolitan areas, Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield, Huddersfield and Halifax.

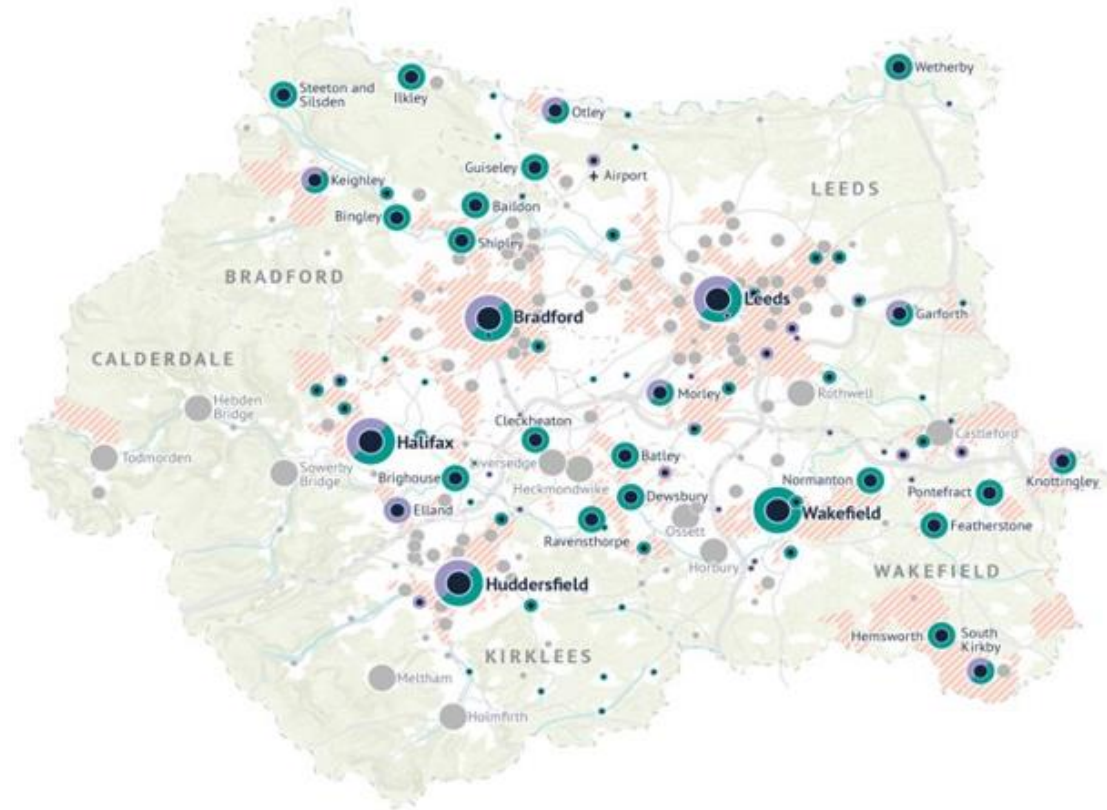
As we develop Mass Transit in West Yorkshire, we will identify the proposed routes as well as the technologies that are the most appropriate.

When complete, the network will serve towns and cities across the region; though the project will be delivered in several phases.



Mass Transit in West Yorkshire – Why?

- Cities and towns in West Yorkshire have outgrown their transport systems. The transport networks are under increasing pressure with public transport that can be overcrowded and unreliable.
- Transport (44%) is currently the largest contributor to West Yorkshire's carbon emissions, with 90% of those emissions attributed to cars and vans alone.



Vision 2040

Our ultimate objective is to create a region-wide mass transit system. Our strategy to achieve this is outlined in our *Mass Transit Vision 2040*.

We held a consultation on Vision 2040 between October 2022 and January 2023. It received strong support from key stakeholders, with 80% of respondents supporting the plans, either in full or in part.

Since its formal approval and adoption by the Combined Authority, Vision 2040 has underpinned much of the early work for West Yorkshire Mass Transit, and it will continue to direct the approach to design and implementation of the project.

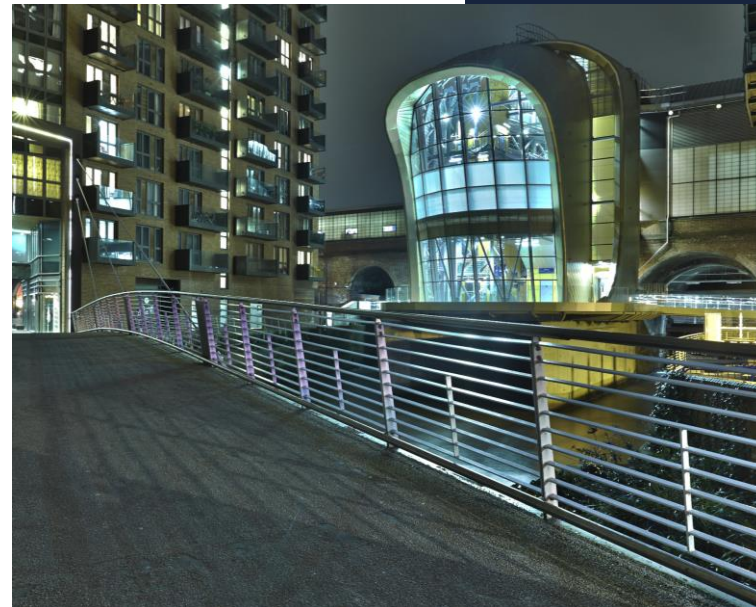
Key Benefits

- **Economy/opportunities:** Mass Transit will create jobs, improve access to education and work and encourage businesses to invest in our region. It will create more opportunities for the people of West Yorkshire and beyond, making our region a more prosperous, healthier and sustainable place to live.
- **Environmental:** It will help us reach our net zero ambitions and ensure that our region has cleaner air and is greener and healthier, for many generations to come.
- **Efficiency:** It will create a better-connected West Yorkshire with affordable, simpler, more efficient and a more reliable public transport encouraging to leave their car at home.
- **Active travel:** It's also not just about Mass Transit, we want to create an integrated transport system which best uses our buses, rail, cycling and walking network.



West Yorkshire Mass Transit Approach

- Delivered via a phased approach, one phase at a time.
- Cities with a mass transit system each started with a hub, a central point that offers opportunity for further extension of the Mass Transit network.
- As the most concentrated centres of business, leisure and retail activity in West Yorkshire, **Bradford and Leeds city centres** will be the hubs at the heart of our system.



March 2024 update

- On 14 March members of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority are scheduled to approve submission of the Strategic Outline Case document to Department for Transport by the Mayor, for approval to continue with the development of the scheme.
 - Phase one would include two lines serving Leeds and Bradford, The Leeds Line and The Bradford Line.
 - The Leeds Line would take people between St James Hospital, through Leeds City Centre and on to Elland Road and the White Rose Shopping Centre.
 - The Bradford Line would run from Leeds city centre to Bradford city centre – also linking Bradford Forster Square with the proposed south Bradford rail station. This line will connect with Bradford's plans to regenerate the southern gateway, which includes a new Bradford rail station.
 - These Phase one proposals will be consulted on in Summer 2024.
- The Combined Authority will also work on a development fund of £1 million of Mass Transit funding to be set aside to support the Dewsbury Line Development Project, which will look into how to get mass transit to connect Kirklees with Leeds.
- The Combined Authority will continue to work with local authorities to ensure that future phases of mass transit reach Wakefield, Kirklees and Calderdale, ensuring no part of West Yorkshire is left behind.



Stakeholder engagement activity

- Environmental survey work scheduled to begin imminently:
 - Surveys along Leeds Line to commence in the coming weeks followed by Bradford Line;
 - Advance notice issued to MPs, Councillors (including Parish and Ward councillors) representing the areas where the surveys will be conducted via a briefing note;
 - Topics covered by surveys include biodiversity, landscape and visual, noise, air quality, traffic and transport, heritage and archaeology, land use (including contaminated land and soils), community, socio-economic and health.



WYCA Mass Transit Consultation and Engagement Update

- **Stakeholder Engagement kick off – September 2023**
 - Political engagement – **September 2023 onwards**
 - Environmental statutory stakeholder engagement – **October 2023 onwards**
 - Key stakeholder engagement – **January 2024 onwards**
 - MP monthly briefings – **February 2024 onwards**
 - District Council monthly briefings - **March 2024 onwards**
 - Parish Council & wards monthly briefings - **March 2024 onwards**
- **Public consultation process:**
 - Phase 1 route options consultation – **Summer 2024**
 - Phase 1 route preferred route options consultation – **2025**

Further Information

- Find the [West Yorkshire Mass Transit Vision 2040 here](#)
- Further information about the project here - [Mass Transit - West Yorkshire Combined Authority \(westyorks-ca.gov.uk\)](#)
- Sign up to [Your Voice](#) to keep up to date on all consultation and engagement projects
- Contact us:
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