

Hope Valley 'Mini Switzerland' transport project update

CLAIRE WARD
MAYOR OF THE
EAST MIDLANDS

EAST MIDLANDS
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AUTHORITY

Thank you to everyone who has asked questions and shared feedback in recent weeks.

We know how much transport in the Hope Valley matters to residents, visitors and businesses, and we want local voices to help shape the project. There will be opportunities to share your experiences, tell us what could work better and give feedback on proposals. Your knowledge of the area will help us understand what matters most to the people who live, work and travel here.

Our focus is on making travel around the Hope Valley easier through better public transport services, more convenient bus and rail connections, and simpler ticketing. Here's an update on the work so far and what's coming next.

Developing better bus and rail connections

We are exploring what is achievable to improve local bus services and create seamless connections with rail services across the Hope Valley.

Our project team is examining potential routes and timetable options to see how more convenient connections between trains and buses could work. This includes identifying opportunities for better connections and the practical arrangements needed to make those journeys reliable.



Further work and discussions with transport operators are underway to help us understand what could be feasible.

Listening to local communities

This project is for you as part of the Hope Valley community, and your experience of living, working and travelling in the area is essential.

We are keen to hear what's working and not working, your thoughts on what we are proposing, and your suggestions for improvement.



A new online engagement platform is planned to launch in early 2027, giving you another way to follow the project and get involved. You'll be able to read project updates, submit feedback and ask questions directly. We'll explain how to sign up in the New Year.

The proposed platform is already used by several local authorities across the UK to keep communities informed and involve them in shaping local plans and regeneration projects.

We are also considering opportunities for residents and visitors to take part in more focused engagement activities as different elements of the project develop, including themed focus groups on bus services, with details to follow.

Alongside this, conversations are continuing with local representatives and organisations to make sure we build on local knowledge and understand the issues that matter to communities. We anticipate using the new platform to undertake a consultation on infrastructure improvements in the new year, with previously identified Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) improvements proceeding ahead of consultation.

Working with our partners

Bringing together local knowledge and expertise is an important part of developing the project.

Our first Steering Group meeting has now taken place, bringing key delivery partners together to help guide the project, and a second meeting is planned for December 2026.



We're continuing discussions with organisations involved in bus services, ticketing and new infrastructure. This month, we have met with Derbyshire County Council's highways team to explore how the different parts of the transport network can work together in practice.

Creating an identity for the project



Work is under way to develop a clear and recognisable identity for the project. This will help create a consistent look and feel for future communications and engagement, making it easier for people to recognise information connected with the project. We hope to launch the new project brand in spring 2027.

Monitoring and evaluating the project

A Monitoring and Evaluation Plan has now been agreed with the Department for Transport. It sets out how we will track progress and assess whether the project delivers real, measurable benefits to the area.



What's coming next?

Over the coming months, work will continue across the different parts of the project, including developing bus service proposals, progressing the project identity and preparing further opportunities for community engagement.

Most importantly, you'll have opportunities to share your views and help shape the next stages. We'll keep you updated on progress and explain how you can get involved.

Thank you for your patience while we put the foundations of the project in place. We look forward to hearing more from you as work continues into 2027. Please look out for updates about the online engagement platform.

As always, if you have any questions, you can direct them to: buses@eastmidlands-cca.gov.uk

If you would like to receive future communications from our project team at the East Midlands Combined Counties Authority (EMCCA) or ITP by Haskoning representatives, including signing up to our newsletter, community engagement platform and invitations to take part in community engagement activities, please complete the online form here.

You can unsubscribe from these emails.

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