

We have also committed to consult with local communities and stakeholders on the scope and viability of further improvements and extension of the Mottram Moor Link Road that would address the issues faced in Tintwistle and Hollingworth.

In the longer term we will work with Transport for the North to explore the costs and feasibility of a high performance road link between Manchester and Sheffield through a purpose-built tunnel. This could link the economies of the two cities while avoiding damaging impacts on the environment of the Peak District National Park.

For further information:

This is one of a series of six feasibility studies carried out across England during 2014. The government has been working with local partners to identify solutions to some of the most notorious and longstanding road hotspots in the country.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/road-investment-strategy#feasibility-studies>

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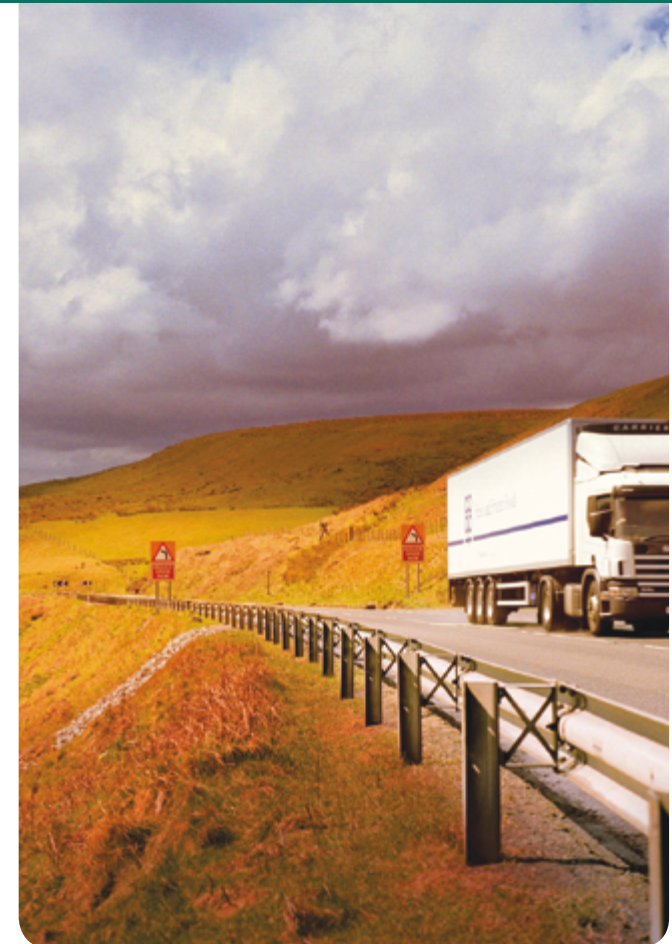
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Trans-Pennine Routes Study



Why we need to take action

The route between Manchester and Sheffield provides a key connection between two of our most important Northern cities. Current journey times and reliability of the connecting routes compare unfavourably with links between other cities a similar distance apart.

Parts of the route, particularly the A628, have high volumes of traffic, steep gradients and sharp bends and winter closures caused by bad weather making the route between these two cities unreliable.

This results in:

- delays and congestion for road users
- an above average number of accidents
- traffic impacts on the local communities and on the environment of the Peak District National Park

What we plan to do

We know that the problems on this route can be bad for the economy and local communities and cause unacceptable impacts on the environment of the National Park. We want to reduce congestion and improve journey times between Manchester and Sheffield, as well as improving the safety and reliability of the route and dealing with impacts of traffic within Mottram and the local communities. In order to make improvements, we have announced an investment package that will deliver:

- a new dual-carriageway link road from the M67 terminal roundabout to a new junction at A57(T) Mottram Moor and a new single-carriageway link
- a new single carriageway link from the A57 at Mottram Moor to a new junction on the A57 at Brookfield, bypassing the existing A628/A57 and A57 Woolley Lane/Hadfield Road junctions
- on the east side of the Pennines, completion of the dualling of the A61 between the A616 roundabout and junction 36 of the M1
- consideration of the provision of two overtaking lanes on the A628 near Woodhead Bridge and near Salter's Brook Bridge
- safety measures focussed around accident clusters and the provision of traffic light cameras, speed cameras and message signs to allow drivers to make informed decisions about their journey

