

Announcement of new vice-chair and deputies

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Tony Burton as vice-chair of the HS2 Independent Design Panel, along with Caroline Cole and Annie Coombs as deputy chairs.

As the level of panel activity has increased, Sadie Morgan has identified a need to nominate a vice chair and deputies, to support her work as chair of the panel. Tony Burton will take a lead on issues relating to community engagement and sustainability. Annie Coombs will lead on landscape design, and Caroline Cole will focus on achieving design quality through procurement.

The appointment of a vice-chair and deputy chairs will also strengthen the governance of the panel. Quarterly Panel Governance Meetings are planned to reflect on the work of the panel, identifying key successes and challenges – to inform the future programme of meetings and reporting to HS2 senior management and the Department for Transport. The governance group will also help keep the operation and performance of the panel under review, advising on issues such as conflicts of interest.



Bystrup Architecture's winning scheme for the Nine Elms to Pimlico Bridge competition, organised by Caroline Cole's consultancy, Colander.

Other plans to strengthen the governance of the panel include a commitment to produce a panel handbook, clearly setting out the panel's role, remit and ways of working.

Finally, it has been agreed that the panel should hold an Annual Meeting, providing an opportunity to explore emerging themes as a group, as well as for update briefings from the Department for Transport and HS2.

The first Annual HS2 Independent Design Panel Meeting will be held on 22 November, from 2.30 – 5.30pm in central London, and we hope you will be able to join us.

Design Panel Activities June - July 2016

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· 'Bite-sized learning' presentation to HS2 staff in Birmingham and mentoring by Ben Terrett on 'user needs' and service design
· 'Bite-sized learning' presentation to HS2 staff in London and mentoring by Daisy Froud on community engagement

Mentoring projects

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· Phase 2 Professional Services Procurement
· Common Design Elements
· Landscape Design Approach
· Station Design Competitions
· HS2 Benefits Management and Scorecard

Workshops

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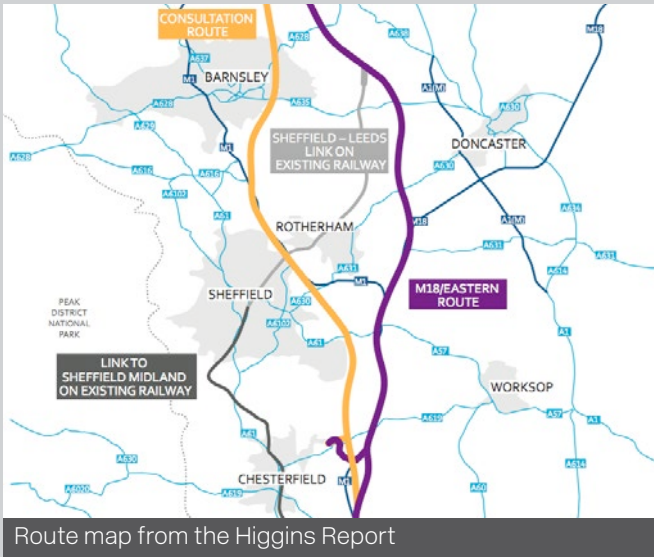
· Design Approach Documents: Depots; Headhouses and Portals; Open Route Structures
· Curzon Street Station: Design Ambitions Document
· Meeting to agree a Design Panel programme for Phase 2b

Full reviews

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· Phase 2 (Western) Route Tour
· Quarterly Core Panel Meeting (preparation for report to DfT)
· DfT Design Leadership Update (with David Prout, Director General, High Speed 2 and Cavendish Elithorn, Strategy Director, High Speed Rail)

Briefing and governance meetings



Route map from the Higgins Report



Chris Lees
Lead Design Manager,
Technical Directorate, HS2

HS2 Sheffield and South Yorkshire Report

Early evidence of the panel's influence on HS2 can be seen in a report by David Higgins, chairman of HS2 on the route and stations in South Yorkshire. The report addresses the difficult decision of where to locate the HS2 station in South Yorkshire.

The previous consultation route proposed a station at Meadowhall, near Sheffield, and the panel's comments on this are quoted in the Higgins report:

"The HS2 Independent Design Panel also has concerns about the constraints at Meadowhall, including the highways infrastructure, air quality, microclimate and station design challenges."

A new route to the east of Sheffield, initially parallel to the M18 is now proposed, with a link taking high speed trains off the main line into Sheffield, whilst the main HS2 line continues to carry trains serving Leeds and further North. In addition to addressing the panel's concerns about the suitability of Meadowhall as a location for a new HS2 station, the new route is also estimated to achieve a £1bn cost saving. The panel will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed new route in August.

People's stories

Chris Lees joined HS2 in March as a Lead Design Manager, having previously worked at Arup on projects including Linköping to Borås high-speed line feasibility study in Sweden. He was also responsible for managing railway engineering work on HS2 from April 2009, taking it from route development, through public consultation, Hybrid Bill design and Select Committee.

In his role as part of the Technical Directorate, Chris has been working with Frame Projects and the panel to identify the most significant topics and projects for review. He also takes responsibility for 'debrief meetings' to consider recommendations made by the panel and decide what actions are required. Where issues raised by the panel require working across different teams at HS2 or senior management decisions, Chris will ensure these are followed through.

Chris will also be helping to keep the panel informed of the way in which HS2 responds to recommendations, as well as reporting on this to the Department for Transport.

Ministerial appointments

Chris Grayling has been announced in the recent Cabinet reshuffle as the new Secretary of State for Transport. Mr Grayling has told BBC Radio 4's The World This Weekend: "I have no plans to back away from the HS2 project." The new Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, has also been a long-term supporter of high speed rail.



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**HS2 INDEPENDENT
DESIGN PANEL**