



Aston Church Road Overbridge, HS2 Ltd

Active Travel

Active travel can support healthier lifestyles and help the UK to achieve its net zero carbon emissions by 2050 target.

In July, the panel met with the HS2 Active Travel team to discuss current workstreams. It stressed that like HS2 urban integration and green corridor workstreams, active travel has the potential to transform the public's understanding of the benefits HS2 – an important strand in delivering 'more than a railway'.

A compelling overarching vision for active travel will help people to understand what is possible and strengthen the justification of proposals.

The panel encouraged HS2 Ltd to harness its shared knowledge and experience, as well as the benefits of an integrated approach across different workstreams, to strengthen the approach.

The delivery of active travel ambitions will often be the responsibility of others, such as local planning authorities. It is therefore important for HS2 Ltd to engage in open discussions with stakeholders and communities at an early stage. This should include communities who may typically feel excluded from active travel type conversations.

The panel is excited by the potential for HS2 to help stimulate a step change in active travel. It looks forward to supporting HS2 Ltd in realising opportunities along the line of route.

Design Panel activities July to September 2023

2

Phase One meetings

- Euston Station update
- Schedule 17 stage - Interchange Station car parking

2

Phase Two meetings

- Phase 2b Planning Forum
- Lessons for Phase 2a

3

Routewide meetings

- Learning Legacy - Common Design Elements
- Active Travel
- WCPD workshop

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Governance meeting

- HS2 Independent Design Panel Senior Executive meeting attended by Panel chair, vice chair, members of the HS2 Ltd senior executive team, and HS2 Design Director

Phase 2a

Later this year it is expected that HS2 Ltd will appoint a Design Delivery Partner (DDP) to manage and coordinate contracts on Phase 2a. Ahead of this appointment, the panel met with the Phase 2a team to understand how lessons from the project to date are informing the approach on Phase 2a.

The panel applauds the thorough and thoughtful approach HS2 Ltd has taken to identifying lessons and applying these insights to Phase 2a. It is confident that the processes, improved standards, more robust data, and tools can provide a robust platform for the next stage of decision making on Phase 2a. The panel also suggested identifying a measure that could provide insight into the cost, time and effort saved by learning lessons.

The success of the work will depend on how it is taken forward by the Phase 2a DDP. Careful thought should be given to the onboarding process and how the work done to date can help to drive a culture-shift across HS2 that can lead to the delivery of a truly place-based approach.

It is also important that HS2 Ltd has sufficient resources and governance mechanisms to hold the DDP to account. This will be essential to ensuring that concepts such as intelligent replication are approached judiciously and holistically, to achieve the projects design quality expectations.



People's stories

Vara is a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers and a Chartered Engineer with 25 years experience working on transportation, civil aviation, off-shore, oil & gas, power generation and infrastructure projects.

As the Technical Services Director for HS2 Phase 2a, Vara is responsible for leading integration, system safety, engineering, environment, and town & transport planning while delivering the best HS2 railway that strives to meet the expectations of people, place, and time.

"HS2 Ltd greatly appreciate Design Panel feedback and its input into lessons identified for Phase 2a. This has helped to bring first principles thinking to the fore as part of our Phase 2a Design Delivery Partner readiness planning and activities."

Delivering HS2 in full

HS2 has been under intense scrutiny since its inception. Given the huge investment of public money this is to be expected. Recent announcements have once again raised questions about the project's future, particularly for Phase Two. This is hugely challenging for the project and those working towards maximising the value of HS2. The Design Panel strongly advocates for HS2 to be delivered in full to ensure that it delivers real economic, social and environmental benefits for the whole country. It will continue to support HS2 Ltd, and others, to deliver a railway the nation can be proud of.



Frame Projects
Secretariat to the
HS2 Independent
Design Panel

**HS2 INDEPENDENT
DESIGN PANEL**