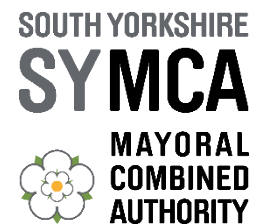


South Yorkshire Transport User Group

Minutes

17 July 2025



Present:

I. Jenkinson	Chair
J. Brightmore	Member of the public
B. Riley	Member of the public
J. Sharp	Member of the public

Guests:

J. Young	Stagecoach
N. Wragg	Supertram
R. Isaac	Northern
S. Loy	S YMCA
R. Cowling	SYMCA
S. Loy	SYMCA
I. Smith	SYMCA
B. Mytton	SYMCA
M. Muntus	SYMCA
A. Knott	SYMCA

1. **Open and welcome**

The meeting was opened, and all were welcomed. Introductions were made around the group.

2. **Apologies for absence**

L. Etheridge, D. Fletcher, D. Allsopp, L. Pickford, G. Selby, N. Spetch, F. Postlethwaite, G. Arthur, H. Roberts, Cllr Higginbottom, Cllr F. Jackson

3. **Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 April were accepted as a true record. No matters arising.

4. **Transport Integration – Franchising progress and next steps**

I. Smith and B. Mytton presented the road map to franchising to the group, focusing on progress to date and next steps.

- 23 Oct 2024 – 15 Jan 2025 – public consultation
 - 7,802 responses
 - 87% in support of franchising scheme
- 18 Mar 2025 – decision made to proceed with franchising
- Design works underway, further consultation on network proposals, tender preparation, fleet specification and depot purchase/construction and IT procurement and setup required etc.
- Sept 2027 – first tranche of services planned - operated from Leger Way (Doncaster) and Olive Grove (Sheffield) depots
- Autumn 2028 – tranche two of services planned - operated from Barnsley and Rawmarsh (Rotherham) depots
- Autumn 2029 – tranche three of services planned – operated from Holbrook, Ecclesfield and Halfway depots (Sheffield).

Q. J. Brightmore asked if SYMCA was likely to reinstate lost routes and frequencies as part of franchising?

A. I. Smith advised that we need to establish a base network which can be adapted as we understand demand and needs. It will be an evolving process which has to ensure value for money.

J. Young advised it would be pointless reinstating lost routes as they were removed for a reason and that he supports I. Smith's points around value for money and establishing demand and needs etc.

I. Smith advised we will be working with a procurement partner to deliver the scheme who will be acting in an advisory role.

ACTION: R. Cowling to share the presentation with the group along with these minutes

5. Operator general items of note or updates

Tram:

N. Wragg advised the group that network improvement works are set to start on Monday 29 July on Ridgeway Road, after the Tramlines weekend. There will be some disruptions to Blue and Purple route services. See Item 6, below, for further information.

Train:

Northern – R. Isaac advised that Northern has an aim to reach 90% performance, 2% cancellations. Current performance is 80.2% against current target of 82.3%. Interventions are being implemented to improve performance.

There has been customer/passenger growth and 6M digital journeys have been made which is a huge improvement on last year. 95% of commuter journeys are paid for digitally.

Community activity – working with education organisations to promote train travel.

M. Muntus asked if there were any plans to introduce a 30-minute service between Sheffield and Chesterfield calling at Dronfield.

R. Isaac advised there are no plans.

J. Brightmore asked additional services between Sheffield to Gainsborough, via Cleethorpes (which was cancelled in 12019) were being considered.

ACTION: R. Isaac to investigate and feed back to the next meeting.

CrossCountry – No representative from XC present to provide an update.

East Midlands Railway – No representative from EMR present to provide an update.

Bus:

Stagecoach – J. Young advised on service delivery, based on latest 40-week figures. Reliability is at 99.34%, punctuality at 81%. The aim is for 91% but given conditions 81% is reasonable.

Fleet investment –57 electric single and double decker buses introduced in Chesterfield with services 43, 44, 50, X17 running into Sheffield. 23 electric buses are already operating in Rotherham. This is 25% of the overall fleet.

There are no longer issues with driver shortages and in fact the number of Stagecoach drivers is overstrength.

Timetables – Stagecoach is in the process of producing a booklet of Peak District services which will be available in South Yorkshire Interchanges.

First – no representative in attendance to provide update.

There are some service changes planned from 20 July across the county along with some summer timetable changes from 27 July. Details are available on operator websites and at travelsouthyorkshire.com/en-gb/newsupdates/service-changes.

6. Capital Investment projects

R. Cowling provided an update on the following:

Magna Tram Train station and P & R (TCF)

Works are progressing well with minor disruption to the Tram Train services every Saturday evening from around 5pm until end of service. This is expected to continue until winter 2025.

Supertram network improvements 2025

Works start on Ridgeway Road between Manor Top and Hollinsend tram stops on Monday 28 July until Friday 15 August. Blue route services will run a revised route

between Malin Bridge and Sheffield Station, and Halfway and Gleadless Townend only Purple route services will be suspended. A rail replacement bus will run between Fitzalan Square in the city centre and Herdings Park via Gleadless Townend. Details of all the works and impact on services can be found at travelsouthyorkshire.com/en-GB/supertram/supertram-network-improvements.

Over Tramlines weekend trams will run as normal throughout the day and into the early evening. After the event each evening, Blue and Yellow Route services will terminate at Shalesmoor for Kelham Island. The only trams operating between Shalesmoor and Middlewood/Malin bridge will be event special trams which will serve Leppings Lane city bound tram stop only. All other tram stops will be closed (Middlewood, Leppings Lane [towards Middlewood], Hillsborough Park, Malin Bridge, Hillsborough Interchange). Information to help travel to the event is available on our Tramlines webpage - travelsouthyorkshire.com/en-gb/newsupdates/tramlines-festival-2025.

7. **Members items**

Nothing raised

8. **Any other business**

A member of the group asked whether there was an update on the Restore Your Railway bids.

ACTION: R. Cowling to ask the question and report back to the next meeting.

Post meeting note: The Restoring Your Railways (RYR) programme was cancelled by the Government on taking office last year, and therefore no new funding will be made available through that programme. The Barrow Hill line scheme was the most advanced and had its Outline Business Case completed by Network Rail last October before the programme closed. Work had not started on the Outline Business Case for the Stocksbridge line so that was not completed.

Funding for the Waverley new station business case is being provided by SYMCA through its City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS), so work is continuing on the Outline Business Case for that. Should a satisfactory business case be made we hope to secure funding for construction of the station by the end of the 2020s.

SYMCA is looking at the Stocksbridge and Barrow Hill lines for future mass transit corridors, using the work done for the RYR programme as a baseline, and seeking funding from the Government to take forward the business case for this.

9. **Dates of future meetings**

- Thursday 16 October 2025, 10.30am – small meeting room booked with capacity of 6 people