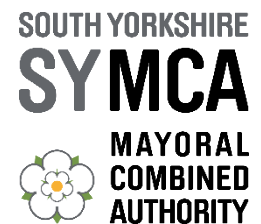


South Yorkshire Transport User Group

Minutes

17 April 2025



Present:

I. Jenkinson	Chair
J. Brightmore	Member of the public
B. Riley	Member of the public
N. Spetch	Vice Chair
G. Arthur	Barnsley TUG
F. Postlethwaite	Barnsley TUG/Better Buses for SY
Cllr. F Jackson	Member of the public
D. Vickers	Member of the public

Guests:

I Johnson	Stagecoach
M. Hopkinson	Stagecoach
N. Wragg	Supertram
A. Bray	Cross Country Trains
G. Selby	EMR
R. Cowling	SYMCA
H. Roberts	SYMCA
K. Wright	SYMCA

1. Open and welcome

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

2. Apologies for absence

C. Khan, I. Joustra, J. Sharp, S. Bennett, D. Allsopp, L. Etheridge, Cllr J. Morton, J. Young

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 January were accepted as a true record.
No matters arising.

4. Operator general items of note or updates

Bus:

Stagecoach – A. Johnson commended operators for stepping in and picking up services when Hulleys of Baslow ceased trading last Month.

He then advised that their network is stable and talked through services changes to be introduced from the weekend of Saturday 26 April. Changes are primarily to improve punctuality with some improved evening journey frequencies.

Reliability is at 99% with services operating, even if they are late.

Drivers – 33 over strength to give resilience and allow the operator to react accordingly. Vehicles are also more reliable.

F. Postlethwaite said she would like to see the Barnsley to Leeds bus service returned.

First – no representative in attendance to provide update.

All April service change details are available on operator websites and at travelsouthyorkshire.com/en-gb/newsupdates/service-changes.

Tram:

N. Wragg advised the group of works that have started to build a new Tram Train station at Magna along with a P & R facility. Tram Train services have been suspended from around 5pm until end of service every Saturday evening (from 29 March) until winter 2025.

Network improvement works also started on the tram network on 29 March. Works started at Birley and completed as planned on 14 April. The next area of works is at Hillsborough over the Easter weekend. Details of all the works can be found at travelsouthyorkshire.com/en-GB/supertram/supertram-network-improvements.

Driver shortages have caused some service cancellations recently, but training is underway to improve resources.

Over 1000 dogs have travelled on the tram system since a trial was launched on 21 March. The trial following a public consultation which saw 75% of over 10,600 people in favour of allowing all dogs to travel. The outcome of this trial will inform whether or not to permanently permit all dogs onboard.

J. Brightmore asked whether the extension of the tram to Dore & Totley was still being considered.

ACTION: R. Cowling to ask the strategic transport team and feedback

Post meeting note: “South Yorkshire’s tram network plays a crucial role in connecting communities, fostering economic growth, and enabling housing densification and agglomeration, and supporting sustainable transport. As we look to expand and enhance

this network, our current focus is on securing government support for development costs through the upcoming Spending Review. This will give us the resources needed to look at extension options and work with partner organisations and the public on how we shape the future network.”

Train:

CrossCountry - A. Bray updated the group on work being undertaken under new Managing Director.

An increase in double set voyagers brings a capacity uplift in the region.

There have been some challenges over rest day working, which are being worked through.

N. Spetch says he welcomes the capacity increase and hopes the right balance is found between first class and standard.

East Midlands Railway – G. Selby advised that this week sees the launch event of the refurbishment of over 170 trains in Derby - new seats, carpets, CCTV, toilets and passenger counters etc.

Also the refurb of the 158's between Liverpool and Norwich. Year of transformation with new Aurora trains introduced on the Midland Mainline.

At Sheffield Station, EMR is working with SCC to reduce emissions by introducing vents under the canopy near the taxi rank. A help point is also being introduced near the ticket office so staff can be called for help if none can be seen.

B. Riley asked if bus service information could be provided at the train station.

A. Bray advised EMR is working with SYMCA on this. They are doing similar work in other areas too.

A discussion was held around capacity on 170's and how they are coupled up to provide either 5 or 6 cars between Sheffield – Liverpool – Manchester. Only 3 cars towards Norwich as less capacity required.

B. Riley said it would be good to advise passengers of the height restriction in the low level luggage storage racks. A. Bray will consider the suggestion.

Northern –No representative from Northern present to provide and update.

5. Transport integration

Franchising

R. Cowling advised that the formal decision to move to a franchising bus system in South Yorkshire was made at the MCA Board in March.

The group agreed this is a positive move but are concerned the voice of the public will be ignored.

ACTION: R. Cowling to arrange for someone from the franchising team to attend the July meeting to discuss progress and next steps etc.

6. Capital Investment projects

R. Cowling provided an update on the following:

Magna Tram Train station and P & R (TCF)

Works are progressing well as N. Wragg advised, 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. An update will be provided as the scheme construction develops.

Supertram network improvements 2025

Works started on 29 March for the 2025 planned network improvements. Works have been split into six work areas with Area 1 completed at Birley and Area 2 at Hillsborough Interchange taking place over the Easter weekend. Details of all the Supertram works are available at travelsouthyorkshire.com/networkimprovements.

7. Members items

Nothing raised

8. Any other business

The group asked for consideration to be given to the elderly and those with mobility issued for information provision and bus routes etc.

Cllr. F Jackson advised that the rail minister will be meeting with Ed Miliband in May re the re-opening of Askern railway station.

9. Dates of future meetings

- Thursday 17 July 2025, 10.30am – virtual meeting pending meeting room availability
- Thursday 16 October 2025, 10.30am - virtual meeting pending meeting room availability