

Following the Stakeholder Day in May, we wanted to update you on progress of the Halton Curve scheme.

The project is now moving forward into a crucial stage of its development with Network Rail commencing the outline design (GRIP 3), which is a key element of the project that must be substantially completed before a Full Business Case is submitted. As part of this work, there will be activity on site with a full series of surveys and assessments undertaken to ascertain the current condition of the track, signals, bridges and other infrastructure. The results of this activity will then inform scheme designs and options, as well as associated costs.

In order to submit a Full Business Case that we're confident is robust, thorough and represents best value, we anticipate it being finalised in late 2015/early 2016, for approval by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority in early 2016.

Recognising the revised timescales and subject to the plans being approved, the overall programme for the delivery of the scheme remains unchanged, with the Halton Curve due to be complete and operational in 2018. We are of course aware of the review into Network Rail's programme of work nationally and will be assessing any potential implications following its publication.

Given the positive feedback on the previous Stakeholder Day, we will be looking to undertake a similar event in the future. However, should you have any questions on the scheme in the interim please contact us via the <a href="mailto:haltoncurve@merseytravel.gov.uk">haltoncurve@merseytravel.gov.uk</a> email address.