

Turning Point for the Railway:

Our Conference in Leeds

Thursday 15 September 2022

For members, the rail industry
and anyone interested in the
railway

What is a railway for? And how can the railway meet the needs of its customers – and get more of them?

'What do we want the railways to look like in the future?' We'll be looking at key topics in this area at our conference, considering both the wider context, and how the railway can evolve to meet the needs of its customers.

At a time when the railway needs to understand (and influence) what a new Prime Minister – and, quite possibly, a new Secretary of State for Transport, want from the railway, but money is tight, where should the focus of campaigners for a bigger, better, railway be? What can justify money being spent? – either on day to day support or on investment – and how can best use be made of the money already being spent?

The railway can be a highly effective contributor to decarbonisation, to levelling up and as part of many wider initiatives – but only if it is successful in attracting passengers and freight to use the railway. The post Covid railway can no longer rely on commuters who “have” to travel to work each day – who can replace them?

Our conference provides an opportunity to pause and reflect on this – By being an in-person event there will be plenty of opportunity to meet and network with others who are interested in the rail industry. This will allow us to better focus our energies on ideas that can influence those with money and policy making powers.

Session details are overleaf – we cover:

- The value of new railway lines and stations
- Making trains more family friendly
- Railfuture on “Is the Railway working for Passengers?”
- Engaging young people in the railway
- Railfuture on making better use of the railway for freight
- Encouraging more women to work in rail
- Making the railway more accessible and inclusive for all

We have speakers from Community Rail, Family Friendly Trains, the GBR Transition Team, the University of Leeds and Women in Rail – and, of course, Railfuture.

Our conference is priced to appeal to all - no more than £50, sometimes less (and including lunch and refreshments), and has been timed to allow a day trip from large parts of the country (our venue is under 15 minutes' walk from Leeds station).

To book, please visit www.railfuture.org.uk/conferences/

#rfconference

Turning Point for the Railway:

Our speakers*

* And you! – An interactive session and the chance to network.

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- Nick Flynn and Abby Taylor, [Family Friendly Trains](#) talking about: Campaign to make trains more family friendly
- [Stewart Palmer](#), Vice President and Director, [Railfuture](#) talking about: Railfuture's view on whether the railway is working for passengers
 - Stewart was previously Managing Director of South West Trains
- [Karen Bennett](#), Community Rail Education Development Officer, [Community Rail Lancashire](#) talking about: How young people can be engaged in the railways
- [Phil Smart](#), Assistant Policy Manager, [Rail Freight Group](#) talking about: Rail's role in the future movement of freight
 - Phil is also Councillor at Ipswich Borough Council with a strong knowledge of transport matters
- [Anna-jane Hunter](#), Partner, Winder Phillips Associates, [Women in Rail](#) talking about: How Women in Rail see the future roles of women in the railways
- [Dr Manuel Ojeda Cabral](#), Senior Research Fellow in Transport Economics and Appraisal, [University of Leeds](#) talking about: The value of new railway lines and stations
- [Alison Smith](#), Head of Accessibility and Inclusion, [Great British Railways Transition Team \(GBRTT\)](#) talking about: Keynote Listener and update on GBRTT
- Conference Chair: Brian Barnsley, Deputy Chief Executive of Community Rail Network and Head of Support and Development, [Community Rail Network](#)

Full speaker profiles are available on our [website](#).