



## Flawed thinking on High Speed 2

29th January 2013

Rail campaigners have reacted with disappointment to proposals for the second phase of HS2. "It seems to be a continuation of the flawed thinking that gave us a controversial route through the Chilterns" says Bruce Williamson of Railfuture. "Whilst we need the capacity that HS2 will give us, it's important that the government gets it right, which they're showing little sign of doing"

"Out of town parkway stations as proposed for Sheffield (at Meadowhall) and East Midlands (at Toton) will do little to improve connectivity, and may make road congestion worse whilst negating any journey time improvements. HS2 must serve existing city centre stations. For example, Toton is of no use to people in Leicester, who seem to have been left off the high speed map altogether, as have the people of Stoke on Trent"

"We welcome the decision to leave Heathrow off the network for the time being. There was never going to be enough passenger demand to justify a Heathrow spur, particularly as most of Heathrow's customers come from the south of England. The Heathrow spur was one example of the skewed thinking that gave us Old Oak Common and the Chilterns route. Other better alternatives exist which would be cheaper and quicker to implement, and we will continue to push for these, as well as city centre stations. We remain willing to work with government on the vital issues of high speed rail and integrated transport"

### Notes to editors:

Railfuture is the UK's leading independent organisation campaigning for better rail services for both passengers and freight.

Railfuture's website can be found at: <http://www.railfuture.org.uk>

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