



No "do-nothing" option for High Speed Rail

31st October 2013

Following today's Commons vote paving the way for HS2, campaign group Railfuture has added its voice to the debate, issuing the following statement:

"Britain's railways face a capacity crisis which is not going to go away. There is no "do nothing" option. Additional enhancements to existing lines to increase capacity are very welcome, but these cannot provide the step change that new lines can provide. It's not an "either or" choice - we need upgrades to the classic network and a new high-speed network too.

HS2 is the only game in town. If HS2 is abandoned, we run the risk of losing this investment for decades. Therefore, we support the route of Phase 1 with the exception of the HS1/HS2 link which we believe needs to be re-evaluated along the lines of the Euston Cross proposal, albeit with an underground junction with HS1

We support the proposals for Phase 2 although we may want to make suggestions for a refinement of some station locations on the Leeds arm of the route

We urge the Government to press ahead with proposals for Phase 3 to connect Scotland"