

# Leeds could finally get its tram system - but it's the only positive of Government's transport plan

Prime Minister announces 'immediate funding' for mass transit system around Leeds and West Yorkshire



Leeds could finally get a tram network like Manchester's Metrolink (pictured) as part of £200m government plan (Image: Paul Jones)

Trams could finally be coming to [Leeds](#) as part of a [government](#) project to improve the city's public transport infrastructure.

Prime Minister [Boris Johnson](#) today (Thursday) announced Leeds would receive £200m of 'immediate funding' to plan and build a mass transit system. Other mass transit systems include the Sheffield Supertram and the Manchester Metrolink.

Leeds is currently the largest city in Western Europe without such a system.

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The project is part of the Government's £96bn Integrated Rail Plan (IRP) which has been widely criticised by Yorkshire and Northern MPs for falling short of its Levelling Up masterplan promise to break down the North-South divide.

The government hopes the mass transit project will: "[right] the wrong that Leeds is the largest city in Western Europe without one.

"There will be £200m of immediate funding to plan the project and start building it, and we commit to supporting West Yorkshire Combined Authority over the long term to ensure that this time, it gets done."

Separately the IRP hopes to halve the journey time between Leeds and Bradford to 12 minutes.

The plan hopes to introduce new timetables, fares and a contactless pay-as-you-go system to reduce ticket office and barrier queues.

While [plans for a new high-speed line between Leeds and Manchester were rejected](#), the government has promised a study to look at the best way to take HS2 trains to Leeds, including capacity at [Leeds Station](#).

A £625m package for 'full electrification and upgrade' of the Transpennine Main Line between Manchester, Leeds and York has also been announced. This includes sections with three or four parallel tracks, where fast trains can overtake stopping services.

The plan will cut the journey from Leeds to Manchester from 55 minutes to 33 minutes.

Mr Johnson said: "My mission is to level up opportunity across our country, which is why we're making train journeys faster and more reliable through the biggest ever public investment in our rail network.

"This is because better rail connections are essential for growing local economies and businesses, and our Integrated Rail Plan will deliver better services to more people, more quickly.

"Levelling up has to be for everyone, not just the biggest cities. That's why we will transform transport links between our biggest cities and smaller towns, ensuring we improve both long-distance and vital local services and enabling people to move more freely across the country wherever they are."

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said: "Our plan is ambitious, deliverable and backed by the largest single government investment ever made in our rail network. It will deliver punctual, frequent and reliable journeys for everyone, wherever they live.

"Just as the Victorians gave this country our railways nearly 200 years ago, this Integrated Rail Plan will create a modern, expanded railway fit for today and future generations. Significant improvements will be delivered rapidly, bringing communities closer together, creating jobs and making places more attractive to business, and in doing so, rebalancing opportunity across the country."

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