

Mark Harper MP, Transport Minister, visit to Portishead Railway sites

Back on the 31st July '23, The Right Hon Mark Harper MP, Secretary of State for Transport, visited the area for the formal opening of the Portway Park and Ride station.



Mark Harper is roughly centre of the group; Dan Norris (Metro Mayor for the West of England) stands to Mark Harper's immediate right

The Secretary of State for Transport also took the opportunity to visit various points along the route of the derelict line between Portbury Junction and Portishead.

At Marsh Lane bridge



Mark Harper in conversation with Lucy Shomali (NSC Director of Place) and David Gibson (WECA Strategic Director of Infrastructure). Mike Bell (Leader of NSC) is standing between Mark Harper and the bridge parapet.

Note the temporary 'car compound' roadway across the line, just visible to the left of Lucy Shomali's head; the roadway crossing will be removed when the railway is built.

On the permissive path across the line at Trinity Primary School



Mark Harper in conversation with Lucy Shomali, David Gibson and Mike Bell

At Quays Avenue



Mark Harper receiving an explanation of some aspects of the plan from Lucy Shomali and James Willcock (NSC Project Manager for the line's reopening)

Following the visit James Willcock provided PRG with the following statement:

"It's very positive with DfT. They are pressing to us the importance of submitting the FBC [Full Business Case] on schedule by late February 24, to avoid any delays arising following a general election and a new government at some point in 2024".

The Project Team is working very hard to achieve FBC submission by the end of February 2024.