

Monday 20th February, 2006

NEWS STORY – for immediate release
**Translink launch £159M Bid to Re-open
the Woodhead Railway as a Rolling
Highway**



Translink launches £159 Million bid to re-open the Woodhead Railway as a Rolling Highway carrying HGVs across the Pennines.

Translink's proposal, which was submitted to the Department of Transport and Network Rail, comprises the following:-

- Re-instatement of the Woodhead railway in twin track configuration
- Modifications to Woodhead tunnel including lowering of track bed.
- Upgrade and modifications to bridges and structures along the 32 mile route.
- Construction of Translink Eastern Terminal at Tinsley Marshalling Yard and Translink Western Terminal at Hattersley for Roll On Roll Off HGV traffic, linking the M67 Manchester with the M1 at junction 34A Sheffield
- Provision of 8 sets of Diesel Locomotives and wagons to carry HGV traffic.

Translink's objectives are as follows:-

- To remove more than 90% of all HGV traffic from the A628T Woodhead Pass.
- To make trans-Pennine transportation safer, quicker and cheaper.
- To improve the quality of life of all those currently affected by the congestion problem of the A628 and A616 Trunk roads
- To benefit the economy on both sides of the Pennines
- To minimise the impact upon the environment.
- To improve transport links between the main Atlantic and North Sea Ports

For more information please write to us at info@translinkuk.com, log onto www.translinkuk.com or tel: 0845 094 0935