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NEWS STORY – for immediate release
Translink secures backing of Barnsley and Penistone MP



The former Sheffield to Manchester railway via Woodhead tunnel should be urgently moved up the national agenda for reopening to revitalise local industry, says an MP whose constituency is taking a hammering from factory closures.

Twenty five years after the last train ran, Barnsley and Penistone MP and industry champion Mick Clapham sees a great future for 'piggy back' services with lorries loaded directly onto trains, easing pressure on the heavily congested and treacherous A628 and A616 Trans-Pennine trunk roads.

Local company Translink UK Ltd has submitted a £159m scheme to the Department of Transport to rebuild the 35 miles of line with increased clearances and roll-on roll-off terminals at each end.

Clapham announced: "I believe that in the next 10 years we will see it happen... I think a railway can revive Penistone and at the same time help the A628"

Julian Newton, Managing Director of Translink UK Ltd said "It is a very encouraging development and we are delighted to receive Mr Clapham's support. Clearly, he knows the potential the railway has to offer and the benefits it can bring to the locally communities."

"However, it is important that we also receive approval from our local MP's and Councils on this side of the Pennines, especially now that the bypass has been delayed indefinitely. A solution is needed and the privately funded Rolling Highway scheme must now take priority"