

# One year on from green light to develop HS2



10 January 2013

Today is the first anniversary of the Government's decision to proceed with plans to build a 21st century high speed rail network that will transform transport links between the north and south of the UK.

## **Marking the anniversary Alison Munro, HS2 Ltd's Chief Executive, said:**

"As the Government prepares to announce its initial preferred route for the lines north of Birmingham, we can afford to look back on a momentous year of activity.

"Since the Government's decision in January 2012 we have been busy producing more detailed route designs and gathering environmental data needed for the hybrid bill legislation that is due to go before MPs by the end of year for the line between London and Birmingham. We have also developed route proposals for the second phase.

"The announcement on the second phase of HS2 will demonstrate the Government's commitment to HS2 and the important national transport benefits this new high speed rail network brings. It will provide an economic boost for our major cities and for the country."

In the last 12 months HS2 Ltd - the company taking forward the proposals on behalf of the Government – has brought in industry expertise from development partner CH2M Hill to progress the London/West Midlands leg. There has also been further support from major infrastructure companies who are working on the design and environmental aspects of the scheme.

HS2 Ltd is currently running a series of information events all along the 140 miles of the phase one route as part of the consultation on the property and compensation measures published by ministers in October. This is due to close at the end of January and then the final compensation measures are expected to be announced in the spring.

In addition, HS2 Ltd is continuing to engage with communities and organisations to help it design a railway that maximises opportunities and minimises any adverse effects. Meetings are on-going with those people living along the London/West Midlands route through community forums, which start again in February. Planning forums are being held with the relevant local authorities and key environmental and other non-government organisations, such as the National Trust, are also meeting regularly with HS2 Ltd staff to discuss the project's development.

Source: <http://www.hs2.org.uk/press/one-year-green-light-develop-hs2>