

Transcript of Introduction video

Better Value Rail is a joint initiative of the Department for Transport, Office of Rail and Road and Network Rail.

The aim is to help people and organisations at the earliest stages of developing proposals for transport projects, particularly involving rail, to set clear strategic objectives and to follow these through with methodical examination of options.

Taking this approach should give more clarity to proposals, helps keep a focus on outcomes and should help save time and money later on.

The toolkit can help project promoters identify and collect the information they will need to start to build an outline business case.

This series of videos aims to help you work your way through the toolkit, explaining the purpose of the tools and how to use them.

The following principles underpin Better Value Rail's approach to delivering better outcomes

- Being right first time. Listen to the right local stakeholders and promoters to understand the needs, don't make assumptions.
- Test for alternative, appropriate solutions. The answer may not always be a conventional heavy rail solution, consider other transport modes where appropriate.
- Being agile in your approach. Putting your focus on the early stages into benefit appraisal, developing the specification and design but not losing sight of the need to deliver value sooner.
- Be prepared to challenge the status quo. Particularly around standards or ways of working, but still maintain that whole system perspective and the need for integration.
- Collaboration. Having a shared purpose across organisations will support a constructive working culture.
- Innovation. Invite input from experts in other industries and projects to gain their perspective.

The Better Value Rail approach is centred around 4 themes.

Firstly, clearing the way, the strategy theme. You need clear objectives and empowered leaders to deliver projects more quickly. Objectives need to be targeted at solving the right problems in order to set the right scope.

Secondly, being challenging, the explore theme. What is the right solution? Is transport part of the answer? Taking care to consider the complexity of systems and the accountabilities, including for system integration.

Thirdly, being prepared, the examine theme. Checking your assumptions and the interdependencies and start to understand complex issues at this stage. Assess the sensitivity impacts and invest in the right places early on to help you make the right decisions.

Fourthly, working together with the right people, the culture theme. Have the right people with the right capabilities and mindsets involved in your project and work with relevant partners in taking decisions. Invite constructive challenge at appropriate moments and spread best practice.

The Better Value Rail toolkit is delivered through this website www.bettervaluerail.uk

And all the stages, themes and tools can be accessed from here.