Welcome
Welcome to the new ‘Westside Weekly’, a newsletter designed to keep those working and living in the area up-to-date on the progress of the Birmingham Westside Metro extension.

The West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) has embarked upon an ambitious plan to regenerate the region and to provide new opportunities for residents and businesses. Central to this plan is the expansion of the Metro network which will triple in size by 2026, providing high quality, safe and dependable tram travel across the West Midlands. The Midland Metro Alliance is working on behalf of the WMCA and Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) to develop, design and construct the extensions.

Traffic update
There is currently a partial closure on Ryland Street, with access from Broad Street, until Friday 6 July. From Monday 9 July to Friday 17 August, access to Ryland Street will be via Grosvenor Street West.

Traffic changes are also in place along Broad Street as part of the ongoing construction work. Broad Street is accessible to buses, Hackney Carriages and servicing vehicles between Granville Street and Paradise Circus Queensway. This will be a long-term restriction whilst the tram extension is under construction.

Bridge Street is closed at the junction of Broad Street and Centenary Square, with access maintained for pedestrians and cyclists only.

Works underway to improve transport links
The 2.2km Birmingham Westside Metro extension will run between Grand Central to Hagley Road in Edgbaston, and once complete, will improve links to and from the west of Birmingham. Work on the first phase to Centenary Square started in summer 2017, whilst enabling works have begun on phase two, connecting Centenary Square to Edgbaston.

Hoardings have been up in Pinfold Street, Victoria Square and Paradise since December and preliminary works are progressing well. In addition, a number of large water and gas main utility diversion works are currently taking place along Broad Street to prepare for the construction works to the terminus at 54 Hagley Road.

Maps around the city
New maps have been placed around Birmingham city centre to help pedestrians and cyclists navigate the area during construction and enhance visitor experience. Maps can be downloaded by visiting: www.metroalliance.co.uk.

Lost history uncovered during tram works
Original Victorian roller shutters were recently found at a shop in Pinfold Street. The roller shutters were previously hidden by the shop front of hair salon Supercuts, which was once 19th century piano manufacturers Dale, Forty & Co, among others, during that time. The shutters will now be preserved and enclosed with a new sign.

Promoting the city centre
A video is being produced to explain what is happening in the area, while a Facebook campaign promoting the many things to see and do in Broad Street is currently live. This campaign can also be seen on the screens on the Midland Metro by everyone travelling by tram to and from the city.

For further information please visit: www.metroalliance.co.uk
or email: communications@metroalliance.co.uk
Alternatively, you can follow: company/midland-metro-alliance @midlandtram Midland Metro Alliance