



Transport for
West Midlands



Midland
Metro Alliance

Connecting SANDWELL & DUDLEY

ISSUE 4 DECEMBER 2019

Welcome

Welcome to 'Connecting Sandwell & Dudley', a quarterly publication designed to keep those working and living in the area up-to-date on the progress of the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro extension which we're building on behalf of Transport for West Midlands (TfWM).



Getting Around

We appreciate that everyone will have a different journey; the following is to assist you to plan ahead:

Getting Around is the section of Connecting Sandwell & Dudley where you're able to find out more about construction activity scheduled for the project, along with any relevant travel advice. Our aim is to always give you adequate notice in order to minimise disruption as much as possible.

If works are to impact stakeholders directly, we will also issue specific Notice of Works leaflets, explaining what we're doing and why, and what the impact may be for those in the immediate area.

You can also find out more about what the Midland Metro Alliance is doing across the West Midlands by visiting our website, www.metroalliance.co.uk, or following any of the social media accounts listed below.

We recommend that you plan ahead, consider using public transport, walking or cycling if possible. If you do have to travel by car, allow more time for your journey and consider travelling off-peak if possible. For travel advice, visit: www.networkwestmidlands.com/keepmoving

November Information Events

With our aim to keep the general public informed, during November we held a series of information events across venues in Sandwell and Dudley. Ten sessions were held in total, with seven of those being open to the public, and the remaining three being provided for specific groups, such as retailers.

We wrote to more than 5,000 local addresses to publicise the events and made updated material on the scheme available at libraries, community centres and travel shops close to the route.

Overall, we welcomed around three hundred people to the sessions, with visits to the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill project page on our website, and related social media interactions, also increasing significantly during this period as people found out more about this 11km tramway project.

Both members of the public and businesses were keen to talk to us about their questions on the extension, with construction and operation both being areas of interest.

Below follows some of the more frequently asked questions during the ten sessions:

When will construction begin?

Advance utility works for the scheme are likely to begin in January 2020, with main construction due to commence this summer.

How long will it take to complete, and how long will you be by my house / business?

We are currently working on the detailed design of the extension, which is how we determine which design solutions will work in each area. While the extension as a whole is due to open for passenger service at the end of 2023, the scheme is split up into much smaller sections, some of which will be completed sooner than others. Once we have completed the detailed design we will be able to give a more detailed answer.

Will access to my business / residence be affected during construction?

While we will maintain access to all businesses and residents throughout construction, there will unavoidably be a certain level of disruption. We will be working with stakeholders to try to maintain their usual means of access as much as is reasonably practical.

I live in an area that already has an overabundance of on street parking. What will you do to make sure more cars aren't parked on my road?

There are currently two park and ride car parks included in the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill extension. As an alliance, we are limited by the powers the Transport and Works Act order grants us as to what we can do outside of the scheme. However, we are working with our local authority partners to find the best solution to parking concerns along the route. A review of parking along the route has recently been carried out by Transport for West Midlands, and we are waiting for the results of the review.

For a more comprehensive list of frequently asked questions, including information on how we work as a construction company, please visit our website, where you will also find details of further sessions planned for the new year.



How can I get further information?

For further information or to view past issues of the newsletter please visit:
www.metroalliance.co.uk

or email:
communications@metroalliance.co.uk

Alternatively, you can follow:

[company/midland-metro-alliance](https://www.linkedin.com/company/midland-metro-alliance)
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Project Activity since last issue

We have been busy on a number of activities since the last issue of Connected Sandwell & Dudley.

As the project has moved into the detailed design phase we've been gearing up for work starting in Dudley Town Centre in 2020.

Staff working on behalf of the West Midlands Combined Authority have taken control of a works compound on Flood Street Car Park in Dudley, while British Telecom have carried out some exploratory utilities work in the area, ahead of the main diversions starting early in 2020.

The Midland Metro Alliance has also attended a host of coordination meetings with partner organisations in Dudley town centre to ensure that disruption is minimised as much as possible when construction activity on the 11km route begins.



REGENERATING DUDLEY

IT'S OUR TIME
build • connect • grow

Dudley

Disability Conference

On 21 November 2019, Dudley Council hosted its first 'Regenerating Dudley' conference for people with disabilities. With support from partners, including colleagues from the MMA, attendees were presented with information about the exciting projects that are coming forward in Dudley town centre, Brierley Hill and Lye.

The purpose of the event was to raise awareness of the extensive regeneration activity in advance of work starting and share information about how communications would be managed, particularly around hoarding in Dudley town centre. It also provided people with the opportunity to put forward their ideas on how future plans for regeneration and transportation projects are designed from the beginning to be user-friendly for all who use them.

It was a great session, where everyone contributed and provided positive feedback. Work is now underway to plan for the next conference, which is due to be held in July 2020. Should you wish to register for the next event or to find out more please contact: Clare Marshall at Dudley Council on 01384 814698 or email: clare.marshall@dudley.gov.uk

Cancer awareness

Did you know it is estimated that by 2030 there will be over a million people of working age living with cancer?

As part of awareness activities for November's Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, Ali Stunt, founder of Pancreatic Cancer Action visited our team with an inspiring and informative session on the UK's fifth biggest cancer killer.

Ali shared advice and guidance on how to spot the signs of the cancer including how swift and early diagnosis saves lives. Find out more at: <https://pancreaticcanceraction.org/>

The Facts about pancreatic cancer



Pancreatic cancer is the UK's **fifth biggest** cancer killer



Almost half of all patients are diagnosed as an emergency in A&E



Pancreatic cancer can affect any adult. It occurs in men and women equally



Receives less than 3% of government cancer research funding

Midland Metro Alliance team go back to school to prepare students for interviews

As part of our work to educate local young people on career opportunities offered in the construction sector, members of our Engagement and Skills team have been attending a number of career events and mock interviews at schools along the route to help support students as they begin considering subject options and next steps after secondary education.

From offering guidance on the kind of roles available in the construction sector, to giving students a taste of what they can expect at a job interview, we've been working with SIPS Education Ltd, who use their close links with local businesses to help facilitate preparation for working life.

You can find out more about the work to upskill local people, along with any career opportunities, by visiting: www.metroalliance.co.uk/skills

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

We'd like to wish all of our readers a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Connecting Sandwell & Dudley will be back in 2020 to continue to keep you up-to-date with progress on the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro extension which we are building on behalf of Transport for West Midlands.



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