



Transport for
West Midlands



Midland
Metro Alliance

Connecting SANDWELL & DUDLEY

ISSUE 5 FEBRUARY 2020

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:

Utility upgrades and diversions on the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro extension are about to begin and are being carried out in two phases:

- From Monday 24 February for up to five weeks, works will begin to remove the central reservation along Castle Hill
- From approximately the 27 March, for up to 12 months, there will be further works to move and upgrade the underground utilities to prepare the area for the Metro tracks
- The bus lanes and two bus stops will be suspended during the works
- Cyclists may wish to use King Street, Union Street and Trindle Road for access to the town centre avoiding Castle Hill.

Plan ahead and leave more time for your journey especially if you travel along Castle Hill. You'll need to allow more travel time to take account of the lane restrictions that will be in place.

In addition, please note that there will be localised traffic management in place for very brief periods across the length of the planned Metro route throughout February and March as vibration monitoring takes place.

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

Early Metro works to get underway during February in Castle Hill

The regeneration of Dudley town centre was given a double boost recently with work starting on the long-awaited Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro extension.

Towards the end of January, Mayor of the West Midlands Andy Street and Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of Dudley Council, officially broke ground on the £449m Metro line joining construction workers who were building the first physical structure for the project.



In February, it was confirmed that utility works would begin in the Castle Hill area of Dudley town centre for the Metro project.

From Monday 24 February, during weekdays, contractors working on behalf of Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), will begin phased works to remove the central

reservation so traffic will still be able to travel in both directions on Castle Hill when utility diversions and upgrades begin shortly after. Further details, including important travel advice, can be found in the Getting Around section to the left.

Sandwell and Dudley area residents have received letters from Councillor Harley providing information on how they can avoid disruption for this and other projects taking place in the town by planning ahead and keeping up-to-date with the authority's new Regenerating Dudley website at www.regeneratingdudley.org.uk.

Roadworks Castle Hill, Dudley From 24 February

Plan ahead



West
Midlands
Network



Dudley
Metropolitan Borough Council

Plan ahead:

www.regeneratingdudley.org.uk



How can I get further
information?

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Pop-in to one of our drop-ins

With works now getting more visible for the Metro route, there's never been a more perfect time to pop-in to one of our forthcoming drop-in sessions and find out more about our works to design and build the Metro between Wednesbury and Brierley Hill.

We'll be at a variety of locations, including bus and railway stations, across Sandwell, Dudley, Wolverhampton and Birmingham helping people learn more about the £449m tramway works.

If you're in the area, why don't you pop and see us:

Date	Time	Location
Saturday 22 February	9:30am – 3pm	TfWM Exhibition Bus, Dudley Town Centre Markets
Saturday 29 February	10am – 3pm	ASDA, Pearson Street, Brierley Hill
Monday 2 March	6:30am – 9:30am	Dudley Port Railway Station
Wednesday 4 March	6:30am – 9:30am	Dudley Bus Station
Wednesday 4 March	12pm – 3pm	Brierley Hill Library
Friday 6 March	6:30am – 9:30am	Wednesbury Bus Station
Monday 9 March	6:30am – 9:30am	Wolverhampton Bus Station
Wednesday 11 March	6:30am – 9:30am	Sandwell and Dudley Railway Station
Wednesday 11 March	12pm – 3pm	Great Bridge Library



We are committed to keeping up you fully informed about the project. You can also share your thoughts and questions by emailing communications@metroalliance.co.uk

Regenerating Dudley website

A new website has been launched to keep residents up-to-date with many exciting projects in the pipeline for the borough.

It comes as work gets under way on several big projects in the area, including the demolition of Cavendish House and the £449 million Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro extension.

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of the council, said: "There will be unprecedented levels of investment in the borough over the next decade, and work is under way on a number of projects that will make a real difference. Contractors are now on site and we are cracking on, which means there will be disruption, but we're committed to promoting Dudley as 'open for business'. It's our time to build, connect and grow and we are going to make Dudley borough an even greater place to live, work and enjoy leisure time."

The Regenerating Dudley website will keep people up to date with nine planned projects and £1 billion worth of investment and can be found at www.regeneratingdudley.org.uk.



Come and see us at Churchill Shopping Centre!

As part of our commitment to keeping you updated about the latest goings on concerning the development of the Metro, we are about to set up shop in the Churchill Shopping Centre.

There will be a member of staff available in the unit at least one day a week, with partner organisations joining us to share updates on other developments in the town centre from time to time.

If you've got a burning question regarding the Metro that you would like to discuss, why not pop along and chat to us.

More details about the opening of the info hub will be found on social media in coming weeks.

Skills and Engagement Team take part in careers lab

Three of our team were delighted to take part in a careers lab event recently at Thorns Collegiate Academy in Dudley.

The event, which included business ambassadors from a range of industries, was aimed at students in year eight to educate them about the vast range of job roles and career opportunities available to them.

Julie Thompson, Skills and Engagement Advisor, said: "We really relished the opportunity to speak to young people and let them know the varied roles there are in both the light rail and construction industries. There's a common misperception of what it means to work in construction, and who is employed in this sector, whereas a growing diversity is the day-to-day reality."



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