



Transport for  
West Midlands



Midland  
Metro Alliance

# Connecting SANDWELL & DUDLEY

ISSUE 7 AUGUST 2020

## Welcome

Welcome to 'Connecting Sandwell & Dudley', a bi-monthly 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:**

Works are taking place in various places in Dudley Town Centre to allow contractors working on behalf of Transport for West Midlands to progress utility upgrades and diversions for the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro extension.

These works are underway in Trindle Road and Flood Street car park, and some localised footpath closures may also be necessary on Castle Hill throughout the remainder of 2020 as further utility works in this area are needed.

Elsewhere for the project, the overflow car park at Dudley Port Railway Station closed on Monday 24 August to allow heavy goods access to the railway corridor where the Metro is being constructed.

The main Park and Ride car park, which includes provision for disabled and car sharing bays, remains open throughout construction for the IMetro

Cycle storage provision remains in place at Dudley Port and the station is regularly serviced by bus services, too.

### Dudley Port Park & Ride

Overflow closure  
From Monday 24 August

**Plan ahead**



Plan ahead:  
[www.metroalliance.co.uk](http://www.metroalliance.co.uk)

Finally, Flood Street in Dudley Town Centre, will close briefly to traffic between 14 September and Mid-October. A clearly marked diversion route will be in place during this time.

**Those who need to travel are being advised to plan ahead and leave more time for journeys.**

## A summer of activity for the Metro

For some, the summer is a time to lay back and relax and enjoy a well-deserved rest, but for the team designing and delivering the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro extension, summer has seen work get well and truly underway with activities ramping-up across both Sandwell and Dudley boroughs.

One of the most noticeable pieces of activity since the last issue of *Connecting Sandwell & Dudley* is the removal of an aging railway bridge across Sedgley Road East in Tipton. You can find out more about this milestone overleaf.



Throughout summer work has taken place along the disused railway corridor which accounts for more than 7km of the new tramway. There have been continued efforts to clear the site ready for construction, including the removal of heritage railway tracks and sleepers. We were delighted to donate these items to Severn Valley Railway for use on their heritage steam railway in Bridgnorth.

Working on the railway corridor means heavy construction traffic is now present in this area and in order for access, the overflow Car Park at Dudley Port Railway Station closed on Monday 24 August. You can find out more about this closure on page 3.

Page two also shares the news that the first tram stop on the route has had its name officially confirmed with Dudley's iconic castle to lend its name to a forthcoming town centre stop on the route and you can find out more about the completion of the first stage of utility diversions on Castle Hill on the same page.

There's lots of other useful information in this issue of the newsletter including news of a colouring competition for youngsters, tips from Transport for West Midlands on how to get ready for the return to school and college on public transport and a reminder that the region's fantastic tourist attractions have re-opened following lockdown restrictions easing and would love to host your summer day out.

Work for the Metro is continuing throughout the remainder of the year with more noticeable construction activity scheduled for 2021. Connecting Sandwell & Dudley is now a bi-monthly newsletter in order to keep you right up-to-date with progress for the route.



**How can I get further information?**

For further information or to view past issues of the newsletter please visit:  
[www.metroalliance.co.uk](http://www.metroalliance.co.uk)

or email:  
[communications@metroalliance.co.uk](mailto:communications@metroalliance.co.uk)

Alternatively, you can follow:

 [company/midland-metro-alliance](https://www.linkedin.com/company/midland-metro-alliance)  
 [@midlandtram](https://twitter.com/midlandtram)  
 [Midland Metro Alliance](https://www.facebook.com/MidlandMetroAlliance)  
 [@midlandmetroalliance](https://www.instagram.com/midlandmetroalliance)

# Connecting SANDWELL & DUDLEY

ISSUE 7 AUGUST 2020

## Milestone reached as first major structure is demolished

Video footage has been released showing the first major structure for the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro extension being demolished in a momentous step forward for the biggest light rail project in the UK.

A new structure will be built later next year as construction continues to move forward. Structural specialists are also currently hard at work assessing and finalising details for the replacement of existing structures across Sandwell and Dudley.

Andy Street, the Mayor of the West Midlands, said: "Infrastructure projects, such as the building of the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro route, are critical to our recovery from the coronavirus pandemic as they help to generate money for the local economy and secure and create local jobs for local people. Because of this I am determined we press ahead with the new metro line for the Black Country, and it is great to see another key milestone reached. The Wednesbury to Brierley Hill route will be a huge connectivity boost for the people of Dudley and Sandwell, and it also forms a key part of our wider, ambitious, plans for the metro network across the whole West Midlands."

Earlier in the summer commuters were asked to plan their journeys as the works involved a partial closure of the highway and footpath along Sedgley Road East. The works were completed safely but speedily and the road reopened to vehicular traffic ahead of schedule on Friday 21 August, well in time for the end of the six weeks holiday as originally planned.

David Lea, Structures Discipline Design Lead at the Midland Metro Alliance, the organisation designing and constructing the route on behalf of Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), which owns the West Midlands Metro, said: "The carefully planned, safe and efficient removal of the bridge deck and abutments at Sedgley Road marks an important milestone for the project, the first of many as we work to prepare the route for the new Metro extension. This has also been achieved with sustainability in mind as many of the materials recovered during the demolition will be recycled. The design team are hard at work finalising details for the replacement structure as well as for many others along the route. It is tremendously exciting to see years of design effort come to life on site, knowing that what is constructed now will be in place for years to come and provide generations with improved connectivity."

Video footage of this huge step forward for the project is available at <https://vimeo.com/447152407/97f4ad554f>.



The railway bridge over Sedgley Road has been successfully removed in an exciting step forward for the project.

## Enjoy Dudley's attractions this summer

Dudley is packed full of great places to visit, including award-winning attractions, fascinating museums and beautiful parks and nature reserves with a canal network that provides a stunning 'green corridor' through the urban landscape.

Following earlier lockdown restrictions, [Dudley Zoo & Castle](#), the [Black Country Living Museum](#) and [Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust](#) have all re-opened their doors for new and return visitors alike and would all love to see you over the summer.

Attractions are taking steps to ensure the safety of guests by limiting admission numbers, heightening cleaning regimes and installing hand sanitisers throughout venues. You can find out more by checking each individual attraction's website for more details or visit [Discover Dudley](#).

## Metro stop to be named after castle

Dudley's landmark castle has inspired the name for a metro stop in the town centre, as work continues throughout the summer months to develop the line. Originally named 'Station Drive' on plans, it has now been agreed the stop should be named Dudley Castle.

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of Dudley Council, said: "Working with Transport for West Midlands and the West Midlands Combined Authority, we have agreed this is the perfect name for the Metro stop closest to the Castle. The Metro will be used by tourists visiting the area as well

as by commuters and local residents and it was felt the name would celebrate the town's heritage and visitor attraction appeal."



## Castle Hill reopens to two-way traffic following completion of first phase of utility upgrades for Metro extension

The first phase of essential work to upgrade and divert the utilities along Castle Hill in Dudley as part of the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro extension were completed on schedule allowing the road to reopen to two-way traffic.

Contractors, working on behalf of TfWM, had been carrying out work since early 2020 to move and upgrade the underground utilities to prepare the area for the much-anticipated Metro route.

Following the successful completion of these works, traffic restrictions that were put in place to allow the team to work safely were lifted on Saturday 8 August, allowing road users to use both lanes along Castle Hill.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental, highways and street services, said: "We recognise this work has disrupted travel for some of our residents and I would like to thank them for their patience while this essential work has been completed. Both lanes are reopening for road users and we are pleased that this has been delivered on schedule."

Mosin Khurshid, Head of Utilities at TfWM, added: "We are delighted that these essential utility upgrades have been completed on schedule and that both lanes on Castle Hill are accessible for road users. I have no doubt that the lifting of traffic restrictions will come as welcome news to the businesses and many varied tourist attractions in the town and I would like to take the time to thank everyone for their patience and understanding during our ongoing works."

Castle Hill will remain open to two-way traffic at present with a reinstated crossing point for pedestrians. During the remainder of 2020 there may be further utility works scheduled which may require more localised lane restrictions or small footpath closures. Details of these will be communicated by the Midland Metro Alliance's dedicated Engagement Team. Bus stops on the busy thoroughfare remain suspended and public transport users should continue to plan their journeys by visiting the website of their operator.



**How can I get further information?**

For further information or to view past issues of the newsletter please visit:  
[www.metroalliance.co.uk](http://www.metroalliance.co.uk)

or email:  
[communications@metroalliance.co.uk](mailto:communications@metroalliance.co.uk)

Alternatively, you can follow:

[in](#) [company/midland-metro-alliance](https://www.metroalliance.co.uk)  
[t](#) @midlandtram  
[f](#) Midland Metro Alliance  
[ig](#) @midlandmetroalliance



# Connecting SANDWELL & DUDLEY

ISSUE 7 AUGUST 2020

## Get ready for transport changes ahead of the new school term

Those returning to school or college next month are being urged to plan ahead and prepare for a very different commute to the one they were used to before lockdown.

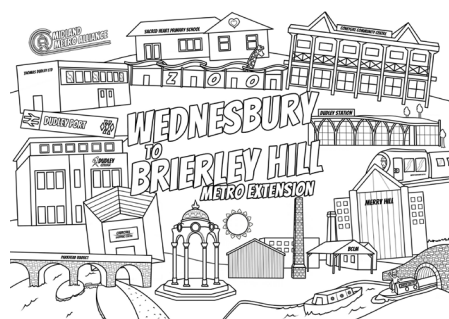
All buses and the majority of trains and trams will be running to ensure that students can get to and from school. However, capacity on board is limited to support social distancing measures.

Supported by a £2m investment from the Department for Education to increase dedicated school services, Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) is working closely with councils and transport operators to ensure that the transition back into education is as smooth as possible.

Travel advice includes:

- Plan ahead, with limited space on board there may be more demand for services at key times
- Leave more time for your journey as there may be a longer wait than usual. You may not be able to get on the first service and have to wait for the next one
- Try cycling or walking where possible
- Drop off differently, consider parking a few streets away and walking the short distance.

To find out more about travelling back to school this September, visit the dedicated page on the [West Midlands Network website](#).



## Competition time: Colour in the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro route

We need your help to decorate select hoarding panels around our worksites in the area.

Talented illustrator, Ben Poultney, from Draw my Town has created the image above for our colouring competition. The image features important local venues and attractions that will be served by the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro extension once complete.

You can download the blank image by [visiting our website](#). Please select landscape in your print settings to ensure the image is printed in full.

We are asking talented youngsters to colour in this image and send it to us **before 12:00 on Wednesday 30 September 2020**. Finalist entries will be shared on our social media channels, where our followers will decide which five entries from each category will feature on site hoarding.

The two categories are 'entrants aged 10 and under' and 'entrants over age 10' and we encourage you to get as creative you can with your design. You may use whatever medium to wish, whether that be pens, pencils or paint.

## Overflow car park at Dudley Port Railway Station temporarily closed for Metro construction in railway corridor

Commuters are being asked to plan their journeys as an overflow car park at Dudley Port Railway Station has temporarily closed. The main car park at Dudley Port Railway Station will remain open throughout construction for the tramway, which is now well underway across the Sandwell and Dudley areas. The closure is required to allow access onto the site of the former South Staffordshire Railway, which makes up more than 7 kilometres of the extension.

The Midland Metro Alliance has been working closely with West Midlands Trains, Transport for West Midlands and both Sandwell and Dudley councils to notify those in the area and commuters who regularly use the railway station of the upcoming closure. Further advice and reminders about the closure will continue throughout autumn as lockdown eases and public transport services become more frequently used.

Ian Collins, Project Director, said: "The new Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro extension will provide a modern and alternative public transport option for the Black Country. There will, unfortunately, be some disruption whilst we build the extension and for this we apologise. We have closed the overflow car park at Dudley Port, located off Park Lane East, to access the former railway corridor whilst we transform it into the new Metro extension. Rail commuters will still be able to access Dudley Port Railway Station throughout the metro works and the station will continue to be connected by local bus services. The main railway car park, accessed off Dudley Port A461, will not be affected by planned Metro works."

Transport for West Midlands and the Midland Metro Alliance have provided the following travel advice:

- Plan ahead and leave more time for your journeys especially if you usually use the overflow car park at Dudley Port Railway Station
- The main station car park, which includes disabled and three car share bays, is less busy earlier and later in the day, however there are limited spaces so people are encouraged to travel to the station using other methods
- Consider walking or cycling to the station and taking advantage of cycle storage facilities
- or using buses (22, 74, 74A) which regularly serve the station
- Finally, the busiest times to travel are changing as lockdown eases. Check with operators before you travel.

Those who need to travel by car are also being advised that there are Park and Ride car parks available at Coseley, Tipton, Sandwell & Dudley Railway Stations and Bradley Lane tram stop, all of which have links into Birmingham and Wolverhampton. However, these car parks can also get busy during peak times.

### How do I enter my design?

To enter, please email us a picture or scanned copy of your design to [communications@metroalliance.co.uk](mailto:communications@metroalliance.co.uk), using the subject line 'Colouring Competition'. In your email be sure to include your name, age and contact details. Please keep hold of the paper copy of your design as we made need you to post this to us. Entrants under 16 must seek permission from a parent or guardian. By entering, you agree to our privacy policy and understand that your design, first name and age may be shared publicly.

You can also share your design with us on social media with [#WBHEColouringComp](#). We look forward to seeing your creations!



**How can I get further information?**

For further information or to view past issues of the newsletter please visit:  
[www.metroalliance.co.uk](http://www.metroalliance.co.uk)

or email:  
[communications@metroalliance.co.uk](mailto:communications@metroalliance.co.uk)

Alternatively, you can follow:

[in](#) [company/midland-metro-alliance](#)  
[t](#) [@midlandtram](#)  
[f](#) [Midland Metro Alliance](#)  
[ig](#) [@midlandmetroalliance](#)