



Transport for
West Midlands



Midland
Metro Alliance

Westside WEEKLY

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Welcome

'Westside Weekly' is a newsletter designed to keep those working and living in the area up-to-date on the progress of the Birmingham Westside Metro extension, which is being designed and delivered by the Midland Metro Alliance 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:

Five Ways underpass is closed to traffic until 2021 as works continue for phase two of the Birmingham Westside extension. The roundabout, which runs above the underpass, will remain open as usual throughout the closure as will pedestrian and cyclist access through the Five Ways concourse.

Bus services 9, 10, 12, 12A, 13, 13A, 126, X8, X10 will not stop along Broad Street until later in 2020. Services 23 and 24 have also been diverted travelling out of the city. Cars, taxis and delivery vehicles will be able to access Broad Street via Gas Street.

A short footpath diversion is in place adjacent to Walkabout as paving works continue. Access to all properties is being maintained at all times.

To ensure the best possible outcome for your journey, you should travel off peak where possible or consider walking or cycling to your destination.

If you do need to use public transport during this time, you can get the latest updates on bus, train or tram services by visiting: wmnetwork.co.uk/networkoverview

The busiest times to travel are varying as Covid-19 measures change, check with operators before your essential travel.

Metro extension work this week

Hyatt Regency to O Bar

Paving works outside The Solomon Cutler have continued at pace, while ducting, drainage and kerbing have been installed too. The foundation for the final road surface has also been laid along the newly installed rail and bus lane.

Jurys Inn to Sainsbury's

Rail and sleepers have been installed and welded in place this week. Meanwhile, asphalt has been laid in Granville Street and, following the completion of paving works, the pedestrian crossing has been reopened. In addition, works to remove the paving from outside Coast to Coast are now well underway.

MODA Living to Five Ways Underpass

Good progress continues to be made on paving works outside of Zara's. Tree pit installations have also been completed outside Velvet Music Rooms with more set to be installed next week.

Morrisons to 54 Hagley Road

Excavation works for the installation of the switch and crossing have been completed and the rail panels have been installed (see story right for details).

Project Director helps inspire future engineers

A Project Director at the Midland Metro Alliance took a trip down memory lane when he made a virtual visit to his former university to inspire students embarking on an engineering career.

Ian Collins shared his own experiences and career journey to a group of 50 engineering undergraduates and masters students from the University of Birmingham.

The Zoom webinar, which was run by Ian's former tutor and British Palestinian engineering academic Professor Kamel Hawwash, covered Ian's time studying engineering at the university to his current position at the Midland Metro Alliance.

He said: "I was honoured to be virtually invited back to my former university where my career in engineering began. So much has changed since I studied there in 1994 but it was great to be able to share my story with some of our future engineers. I hope that my career journey has helped to inspire the students to continue on their chosen paths."



Successful installation of key section of track

A key section of rail that will allow trams to move from one track to another has been successfully installed as construction continues.

The switch and crossing is now in place along Hagley Road after the first stage of work to install the rail got underway earlier this week, marking another important step forward for the project.

A 100-ton terrain crane was used to lift and position the track panels in place over three days. Further work will need to be carried out on the track before the installation is complete, including levelling and welding it in place.



Marta Gasch, Lead Track Engineer at the Midland Metro Alliance, said: "The first stage of installation for the switch and crossing is a fantastic achievement for the team. Key tests carried out at the factory before delivery ensured that the track was ready for installation when it arrived on site, allowing for the work to be completed without any issues. There is still some work left to be done on the track before it is complete but it is great to see it in its final position, giving the public a feel of how it will look when the trams are in operation."



How can I get further information?

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

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communications@metroalliance.co.uk

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