



Transport for
West Midlands



Midland
Metro Alliance

Westside WEEKLY

ISSUE 119 13 - 19 NOVEMBER 2020

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.

Access to the Brindleyplace service area will be via Gas Street, while access to Bay C (for ICC and Symphony Hall) and Regency Wharf will be via Bridge Street, with an exit via Gas Street, until Sunday 22 November.

A pedestrian diversion is in place on Broad Street for those heading towards Five Ways from Centenary Square/ Bridge Street. 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

Good progress has continued to be made on paving works this week, with the footpath now completed outside Solomon Cutler. Paving works are now also underway outside the Gentleman and Scholar and these works are 30 per cent complete.

O Bar to Juries Inn

This week, the existing road surface has been removed and excavation works have taken place.

Juries Inn to Sainsbury's

The area between Coast to Coast and Popworld has been paved ready for the Brindleyplace tram stop to be installed in the coming weeks.

MODA Living to Five Ways Underpass

Ducting and paving works to Bishopsgate Street have been completed this week, while works to install new tree pits have also continued to move forward.

Morrisons to 54 Hagley Road

Concrete has been poured to the recently laid switch and crossing track, which will allow trams to move from one line to another (see second page). Work has also taken place to connect the switch and crossing to rail at Five Ways underpass.

Paving works get underway during national lockdown

Paving works are being carried out between Sheepcote Street and Bishopsgate while there is reduced footfall in this area during the national lockdown.

The north and south footpath in this area is currently closed to allow these works to take place.

Pedestrians making their essential journeys are being diverted along Broad Street via a walkway that has been created in the carriageway. Access is maintained for businesses that remain open in this area.

Upcoming traffic changes

Traffic changes will be implemented between Bridge Street and Gas Street as construction continues.

From Sunday 15 November, for approximately one week, Bridge Street will close to traffic to allow road surfacing works to be completed across the Broad Street canal bridge. Access will be maintained for delivery vehicles.

Gas Street will also become two-way under temporary traffic lights during this time and the Brindleyplace service area will be accessible via Gas Street.

Access to frontages will remain at all times, and traffic marshals will be on site to assist with deliveries when required.

Online platform launched to inspire young people

The Midland Metro Alliance has launched an online platform to inspire the next generation of youngsters in the West Midlands to consider careers in construction and railway engineering.

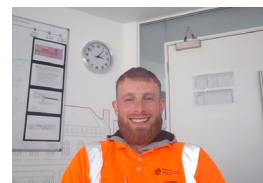
Connecting Futures is a sub-site of the Midland Metro Alliance's website and supports the successful work already undertaken to encourage young people to consider the construction industry as a potential career path recognising that there are many and varied roles within it.

The platform has short videos from employees at the alliance sharing personal insights into their specific job role and their career journeys. There are also sample job descriptions giving further information on the general qualifications that are required for certain roles.

Across the summer and through the autumn, both remotely and in person, the alliance Communications and Engagement and Skills Teams have been interviewing colleagues to create the guidance videos and have often been surprised at their colleagues' varied experiences as well as being inspired by their advice to young people.

Content, and deeper dives into particular job-roles and topics, will continue to be added to the site on a regular basis to make Connecting Futures a hub for local career advice which people will want to bookmark.

To access Connecting Futures, visit: www.metroalliance.co.uk/connecting-futures



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For further information or to view past issues of the newsletter please visit:
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Team congratulated following rail installation

Local leaders congratulated workers following the installation of a key piece of tramway infrastructure in another milestone for the Birmingham Westside Metro extension to Edgbaston.

The switch and crossing, an intricate section of rail that allows trams to move from one track to another, has been successfully installed on Hagley Road following weeks of intricate construction activity beginning in late-October.

A video which shares a closer look at the work has also been released and to mark the occasion Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands, shared messages with the construction workers during a meeting held via Microsoft Teams.

He said: "Big construction projects have a critical role to play in our region's economic recovery from coronavirus as they help to create and protect local jobs in the construction industry – one of our region's biggest employers. It is therefore brilliant to see the Westside metro extension reach this key milestone, whilst our other extensions to the East of Birmingham and from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill in the Black Country continue at pace as part of my transport plan for the West Midlands. It was great to be able to speak to the construction team to congratulate them for their hard work during these difficult times, and I am sure we will have many more metro milestones to celebrate in the coming months."

Councillor Waseem Zaffar, Birmingham City Council Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment, also congratulated the team, adding: "The Metro extension is a key part of Birmingham's response to the challenge of climate change and this new route provides a sustainable option for travel across the city which is important ahead of the implementation of the Clean Air Zone. We're grateful that the team have been able to continue to work safely in challenging times to keep the project on schedule."

To view the video of the installation, visit <https://vimeo.com/478030133/766e416a72>



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