



Transport for
West Midlands



Midland
Metro Alliance

Westside WEEKLY

ISSUE 123 11 -17 DECEMBER 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 2021. 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 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](https://www.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 work continues with the majority of stonework now laid in the vicinity of the Hyatt Regency. In addition, considerable progress has been made on brickwork between the ICC and the canal bridge (as pictured).



O Bar to Juries Inn

The team have been busy preparing the area for the installation of the final 10 metres of track to be installed on Broad Street. This work, which is due to get underway next week, requires some localised traffic changes, as detailed in the story below.

Juries Inn to Sainsbury's

Over the past week the framework for the Brindleyplace tram stop has arrived on site and has begun to be installed. In addition, paving work continues adjacent to Coast To Coast.

MODA Living to Five Ways underpass

Paving activities are now complete in the proximity of Velvet Music Rooms, Bierkeller and Varanasi and is progressing well near Hampton by Hilton. This week also saw the installation of additional lighting columns.

Morrisons to 54 Hagley Road

Work to upgrade and divert a water main in the area has been completed and the team is currently excavating ahead of a concrete pour in this area in coming weeks.

Changes to vehicular access on Oozells Street as works progress

From Saturday 12 December, any vehicles wishing to access or exit the Brindleyplace Service Area or Oozells Street will do so via Berkley Street. Access and egress to the ICC (Bay C at the Symphony Hall and Regency Wharf) will be maintained via Bridge Street and Gas Street at all times and a dedicated marshal will be present to assist as needed.

Should you have any questions, or would like to receive an illustration of these changes for courier / deliveries, you can contact a member of the Engagement and Skills Team via email communications@metroalliance.co.uk.

Tram CATs join fight against coronavirus

With the festive season fast approaching, our colleagues at West Midlands Metro are stepping up their efforts to keep customers safe as they prepare for Christmas under Covid-19 restrictions.



Last week saw the new Covid Advice Team (CAT) out and about on trams for the first time, helping customers

comply with government rules and guidance for using public transport. CAT patrols are now on hand to offer advice on how customers can plan their journey to avoid situations where social distancing may be more difficult. They'll also carry some spare face coverings for anyone who may have forgotten their own.

Ray Harris, Head of Operations at West Midlands Metro explained: "So far, we've seen excellent compliance with the rules on wearing a face covering and the vast majority of customers continue to take the necessary precautions to help prevent the spread of Covid-19."

The team is easily identifiable in high visibility jackets and is funded by the Department for Transport. They work alongside the Safer Travel Partnership, which has also launched a team to tackle non-compliance of face masks on public transport across the region.

MMA staff dig deep for charity campaign

Christmas is likely to be different for all of us this year, however for the sick and vulnerable in our society it is likely to be even harder. In a bid to help staff at the alliance are raising money for the organisation's two chosen charities, St. Basils and Acorns Children's Hospice, this festive period.

Acorns Children's Hospice looks after children with life limiting conditions and donations assist with ensuring they have access to the best quality of care. You can find out more about the fantastic work that Acorns do here in the West Midlands by visiting: <https://youtu.be/e-J48w3k2U>. Our second chosen charity, St Basils, is a Birmingham-based organisation which works with young people who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness. You can hear more at: <https://youtu.be/bEtbXsyFB5c>

In the first week of MMA's staff campaign more than £650 has already been raised with additional donations of selection boxes, bedding, cleaning and personal care items also generously donated by the alliance team.



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:

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