



Transport for
West Midlands



Midland
Metro Alliance

Westside WEEKLY

ISSUE 124 18-24 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 later in 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.

Those wishing to access or enter the Brindleyplace Service area or Oozells Street must currently do so via Berkley Street. Similarly, access and egress to the ICC and Regency Wharf is available via Bridge Street and Gas 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

The completion of grouting in the proximity of the Hyatt Regency has taken place this week with the finishing works ongoing along with the conclusion of paving activities on the canal bridge.

O Bar to Jurys Inn

The pouring of concrete for shoulders which will separate the tramway from traffic has been completed with the first layer of asphalt laid for the road surface. This week also saw the final pieces of track on Broad Street welded into place adjacent to Coyote Ugly.



Jurys Inn to Sainsbury's

The work to install both Brindleyplace tram shelters continues, see story overleaf. In addition, the majority of paving activities are completed.

MODA Living to Five Ways underpass

Paving is more than 95 per cent completed on the section of Broad Street leading to Five Guys. Work has also been taking place to complete intricate paving works around tree pits.

Morrisons to 54 Hagley Road

Excavations for track, which started last week, are now completed with nearby utility diversions adjacent to Barclays Bank also wrapping up in recent days.

MMA joins colleges to launch programme to get West Midlands back into work



Rose Rees, Head of Engagement and Skills at the Midland Metro Alliance, joined college leaders from across the West Midlands last week to help launch a skills programme aiding those who lost jobs during the pandemic. All 20 colleges across in the region have come together to offer a skills recovery programme called 'Reignite Your Future'.

More than 5,000 adults are set to benefit from free training over the next year thanks to the West Midlands Combined Authority-funded initiative which is geared to helping them to gain jobs in one of the region's growth sectors. Any adult living in the West Midlands can join a short sector-based work academy programme which usually lasts up to six weeks. Sectors include construction, digital, health and social care, engineering and logistics, with a guaranteed interview for everyone who completes the learning.

Speaking at the launch in Solihull last week, Rose said: "Programmes like these are a brilliant way for organisations to recruit adults from diverse backgrounds into key roles often providing individuals with an opportunity to change their lives through sustained employment."



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Metro extension marks a major first as tram stop and last rails begin to be installed on Broad Street

A major first was marked on Wednesday (16 December) following the beginning of the installation of a new tram stop on Broad Street.

The first of three-new tram stops for phase two of the extension is now being installed on the "golden mile" as construction on the light rail project moves to a new stage. Peter Cushing, Director of the Midland Metro Alliance, welcomed Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands and Charles Toogood of Brindleyplace on a site visit where they also saw the final ten metres of track on Broad Street being welding into place and took a seat on the Black Sabbath bench – a local landmark which was returned to area overnight as paving works were completed.



Speaking at the site of the tram stop, which will serve the city's night-time entertainment district, Andy Street, said: "That we are celebrating yet another milestone for this important project, even as we navigate through these difficult times, is a brilliant achievement. The installation beginning on the first tram stop along Broad Street is a clear sign that we are entering the final stage of construction, bringing us closer to unlocking the significant economic benefits the extension will bring to every part of our region."

Peter Cushing, added: "It is incredibly exciting to celebrate the first tram stop shelter beginning to be installed on Broad Street. Construction has been escalated in areas during the pandemic in order to benefit the businesses so it is great to see the team's hard work now starting to pay off. All at the alliance share great pride in delivering such a transformative tram extension for the city and we are all delighted to see the area beginning to take shape.



Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

With the festive season fast approaching, we wish all of our readers a very safe and merry Christmas with best wishes for the new year ahead.

Westside Weekly will return to continue to provide updates on project's progress on 8 January 2021.

The majority of site activity will pause briefly over the Christmas period beginning on 23 December with construction recommencing from 4 January 2021. Paving works are set to continue throughout.



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