



Transport for
West Midlands



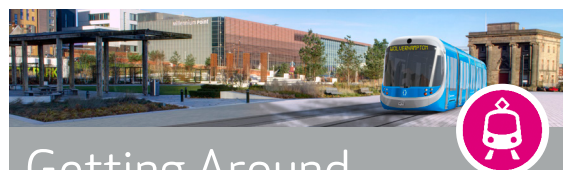
Midland
Metro Alliance

Eastside EDITION

ISSUE 1 31 MARCH 2021

Welcome

Welcome to 'Eastside Edition', a new newsletter designed to keep those working and living in the area up-to-date on the progress of the Birmingham Eastside Metro extension to Digbeth, 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:

As works get underway on Lower Bull Street this spring, the 33, 51, 907, 907a, 934, 935, 936, 937, 937A, 997 and X51 West Midlands Bus services, which all currently serve the Lower Bull Street interchange, are expected to be diverted to serve additional bus stops at Albert Street, Corporation Street, Dale End and Moor Street Queensway.

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. Please check with public transport operators before any essential travel.

Public transport users urged to plan ahead as main construction to begin this spring in Lower Bull Street

The West Midlands Metro extension linking Digbeth with the city centre will enter main construction later this spring when works to construct a junction at Lower Bull Street and Corporation Street get underway.

To allow new track to be laid for the much-anticipated Birmingham Eastside Metro extension, Lower Bull Street will close to all traffic during construction while pedestrian access will be maintained at all times. This next phase of works follows the successful completion of utility upgrades and diversions in the area.

Midland Metro Alliance (MMA), which is designing and building the scheme on behalf of TfWM, will carry out further works later in the summer to connect the new tracks with the existing line at Bull Street ahead of passenger services opening to a new terminus in Edgbaston later this year. West Midlands Metro services will terminate at an alternative location in the city centre while these works are carried out and further details will be confirmed over the coming months.

Peter Cushing, Director of Midland Metro Alliance, said: "The expansion of the Metro to the east of the city will make it easier for those living, working and travelling in Birmingham to get around. This is an exciting scheme which will help transform and support the regeneration of Digbeth by improving connectivity and making the most out of HS2. I am delighted that we will be starting construction shortly and look forward to seeing progress made on the project over the coming months.

Michael Anderson, West Midlands Metro Projects Director at Transport for West Midlands, added: "Whilst these works across the city are ongoing, it is important for people making essential journeys to plan ahead and to use public transport if possible as you will reduce the number of private vehicles on the east of the city which will help to keep everybody moving. We are working closely with Birmingham City Council, local Business Improvement Districts, Transport for West Midlands and public transport operators to minimise our impact and help keep people moving when works begin."

The construction activity that is set to get underway in the spring will mean that buses serving Lower Bull Street are expected to be diverted to temporary stops at Albert Street, Corporation Street, Dale End and Moor Street Queensway. Provisions will also be put in place to allow West Midlands Metro passengers to access the city centre while the track connection works take place for a short period during the summer. Metro services are set to return to their regular terminus before autumn 2021 with the work in Lower Bull Street expected to be completed by spring 2022.

MMA has been working with partners at TfWM, WMM and Birmingham City Council to keep those in the local area informed of these recent activities via their dedicated Engagement Team, including writing to all schools, university and colleges in Birmingham to help students plan their journeys during term times. Further information for stakeholders and the travelling public will be shared in coming weeks as these key works ramp-up across the city centre.



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:

 [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)



Transport for
West Midlands



Midland
Metro Alliance

Eastside EDITION

ISSUE 1 31 MARCH 2021

The story so far for the Birmingham Eastside Metro extension to Digbeth

This West Midlands Metro extension forms part of Transport for West Midlands' ambitious plan to regenerate public transport in Birmingham and the Black Country, providing much-needed links to the existing heavy and light rail networks, and helping to connect people to education, training and career opportunities further afield in the West Midlands.

The £227m Birmingham Eastside Metro extension, which saw utility upgrades and diversions get underway earlier last year, will run from Bull Street, in the city centre, to Digbeth, adding four new tram stops to the Metro network.

More than half of the 1.7km route is planned to be free of overhead wires, similar to the recently opened extension from Grand Central to Centenary Square, and construction for the project includes urban realm upgrades for Digbeth High Street ahead of 2022's Commonwealth Games.

The light rail scheme is part of a series of transport projects including HS2, Sprint and upgrades to Moor Street Station which support major regeneration initiatives in the east of Birmingham city centre. The development also incorporates a new transport interchange to provide efficient bus, Sprint and coach connectivity with HS2 helping more people and businesses in the region make the most out of this investment in the rail network.



Amy is your dedicated stakeholder liaison officer

Amy Walker, who some of you may have already met, is your dedicated Stakeholder Liaison Officer for the route.

Amy previously worked closely with businesses in the city centre during the work to extend the tramway to Centenary Square and will be on hand to answer any questions, queries and concerns you may have about the project, while also keeping you updated on the progress.



She said: "I am here for any questions and queries you might have about our plans to bring the tramway through the city centre and out to Digbeth. As soon as Covid-19 restrictions allow, I'll be out and about connecting with stakeholders and also meeting any new businesses which might have opened in recent weeks and months."

Amy can be contacted on the details at the bottom of this page.

Share your reopening plans

We are asking businesses along the route to share their plans for reopening to allow us to coordinate our works where possible.



If you are planning to open on or after 12 April, please get in touch with Amy Walker on the details below as soon as possible.



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:

[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)



Transport for
West Midlands



Midland
Metro Alliance

Eastside EDITION

ISSUE 1 31 MARCH 2021



Find out what it's like to work in construction and transportation

Midland Metro Alliance's online careers hub has been helping to inspire young people to consider careers in construction or railway engineering.

More than 40 members of staff at the alliance have shared their personal insights into their career journeys and job roles on the Connecting Futures hub since its launch last October.

Colleagues from West Midlands Metro have also joined the project and shared their expertise on careers in transportation.

Connecting Futures: Careers on Track is the online skills and careers hub from the Midland Metro Alliance.

On this page, you'll find members of staff, both past and present, from the Midland Metro Alliance and partner organisations, who share their experience in getting into their chosen profession and tell you what it is like working in the construction and transport industry (and how, for some, it was much different than they originally thought).

New videos and resources are added on a regular basis, so be sure to check back often.

For individual queries or support get in touch with us using our contact form.

All: Administration Purchasing Planning Operations Communications Marketing Legal Human Resources HSE Finance Engineering



Stephen
Quantity Surveyor



Michael
Projects Director



Vicki
Customer Service Manager



Tom
Project Manager



Harish
Assistant Delivery Manager

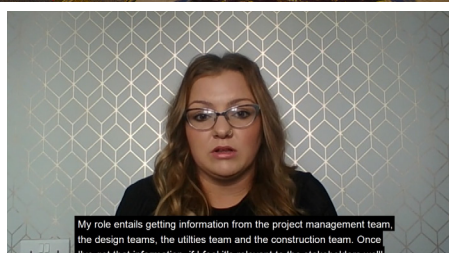


Luke
Landscape Team Leader

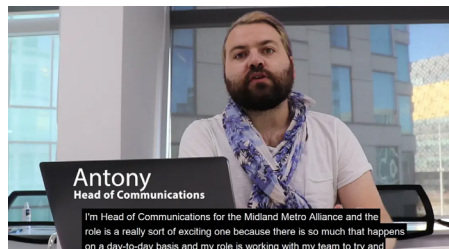
Jobs represented include graduate schemes and track engineering as well as office-based roles such as human resources, communications and finance.

On the operational side of running a tramway, young people can learn more about business development, customer service, safety and landscaping.

You can access Connecting Futures by visiting www.metroalliance.co.uk/connecting-futures.



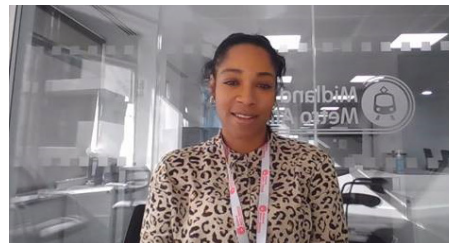
My role entails getting information from the project management team, the design teams, the utilities team and the construction team. Once I've got that information, if I feel it's relevant to the stakeholders we'll



Antony
Head of Communications
I'm Head of Communications for the Midland Metro Alliance and the role is a really sort of exciting one because there is so much that happens on a day-to-day basis and my role is working with my team to try and



various multi-disciplinary projects, mostly in the transport sector for a



Jay
Risk Manager

West Midlands pioneers first 5G tram

The UK's first 5G-connected tram is being trialled in the West Midlands.



The project, which has been developed by West Midlands 5G, will help to improve passenger safety on the West Midlands Metro. With this technology more high-definition CCTV footage can be captured on the tram and securely and remotely transferred to the Regional Traffic Control Centre while in operation. Passengers would also be able to enjoy live travel updates and the ability to stream entertainment with the on-board connectivity.

It will also enable operators to more flexibly manage services to meet passenger demand and navigate challenges related to covid-19, including managing social distancing and boosting public confidence as life returns to normal post-pandemic.

Sophie Allison, Head of Business Transformation at West Midlands Metro, commented: "We're proud to be working in partnership on this new initiative, it's our shared ambition to utilise new technologies to improve services for passengers across the region. This collaboration has enabled us to use the advances in 5G technology to monitor the tram network in real-time."



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:

[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)