



Transport for
West Midlands



Midland
Metro Alliance

Transforming WOLVERHAMPTON

ISSUE 18 12 MARCH 2021

Welcome

Welcome to 'Transforming Wolverhampton', a newsletter designed to keep those working and living in the area up-to-date on the progress of the Wolverhampton City Centre 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:

One lane will be closed to traffic on Bilston Street from Monday March 15 to allow footpath works to take place. A short diversion route will also be in place for pedestrians via the subway.

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.



Metro extension edges closer to completion

The Wolverhampton City Centre Metro extension will move closer to completion when the final stages of construction get underway in the coming days.

Midland Metro Alliance, working on behalf of Transport for West Midlands, will return to the city centre to carry out a series of activity to complete the scheme including laying the final sections of track outside the revitalised Station Plaza when the city's new railway station is complete.

The start of the final phase of the project follows the successful completion of works, including track laying and resurfacing, along Pipers Row and Railway Drive in 2019 before a pause in the project to allow the station works to begin.

Construction is expected to commence from Monday 15 March with works to extend the footpath along Bilston Street. During this time, one lane will be closed to traffic, while pedestrians will be advised to follow a short diversion via the subway.

Paul Brown, Construction Director, explained: "Our return to Wolverhampton to complete the final stages of construction for the Metro extension signals a really important step in the project and I am delighted that these works are now getting underway. When complete, the Wolverhampton City Centre Metro extension will provide a much-needed boost to public transport by allowing people to easily change between train, tram and bus. We do appreciate that our works can cause disruption to the travelling public and we will continue to work closely with the City of Wolverhampton Council, Wolverhampton Business Improvement District and our partners at Transport for West Midlands to minimise impact wherever possible."

Further activity will take place throughout the spring and summer months, including finishing works along Pipers Row, with traffic flow maintained at all times under temporary traffic lights and works at St George's Parade, which will involve the reversal of traffic via Snow Hill.

Those travelling through the city centre are being advised to leave more time for their journeys while construction is underway.



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:
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Alternatively, you can follow:

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Shervorne returns as your dedicated SLO

Shervorne Brown will continue as the dedicated Stakeholder Liaison Officer for the route when the final stages of construction begins.

Shervorne previously worked closely with businesses in the city centre during the first three phases of works 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 looking forward to reconnecting with the stakeholders along the route and to meet any new business owners who have opened while we have paused construction. I will be out to visit all businesses in person when the current covid-19 restrictions allow."

Shervorne can be contacted on the details below.



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

The 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.

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.

A look back

Construction in Wolverhampton city centre first got underway in Pipers Row and Railway Drive in the spring and summer of 2018.



As well as laying new track along the route, the team also completed improvements to the street scene with the installation of new planters, tree pits, pedestrian guardrails and laying new paving.

The construction team completed phases two and three of the project in 2019 and these images show some of the many milestones that were achieved along the way.



Share your reopening plans

The alliance is 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, you can get in touch with Shervorne by emailing communications@metroalliance.co.uk.

Work placement students complete health and safety project

Work placement students have shared their knowledge about the importance of health and safety in construction.



Igor Fierka, William Finch-Watts and Oliver Brooks, students at Thomas Telford University Technical College (UTC) in Wolverhampton who have been learning more about working in the sector during their work placement, demonstrated their learning by delivering a presentation to the alliance's safety team.

Some of their ideas included the use of 3D models and innovative technology such as geographical information systems to gain better data on safety risks.

The students, who have all recently completed studies including a BTEC in Construction and the Built Environment, joined the alliance on work experience last October to gain experience in all the different aspects of a construction project.

Simon Maxfield, Vice Principal at Thomas Telford UTC, said: "We are very proud of our students and would like to thank all at Midland Metro Alliance team for giving them the amazing opportunities."

Later in 2021, further students from the UTC will join the alliance on similar work placements, where they will learn first-hand about construction on projects like the Wolverhampton City Centre Metro extension and the alliance's work on the nearby Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro extension, which is the biggest light rail project currently underway in the UK.



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