

STAKEHOLDER REOPENING UPDATE | 14 MAY 2021

BIRMINGHAM WESTSIDE METRO EXTENSION



What businesses can expect when they return on 17 May 2021

From Monday 17 May, indoor hospitality venues and attractions along Broad Street will be welcoming back customers as England enters the next stage of the Government's Covid-19 roadmap out of lockdown.

The Midland Metro Alliance have continued to work closely with partners at Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), Birmingham City Council and Westside BID to ensure the area is ready to accommodate the safe return of customers.

A considerable amount of activity took place in the weeks preceding 12 April when venues were planning to open for outdoor service, and, despite inclement weather, finishing works have been ongoing throughout April and May allowing additional outdoor space to be provided to venues who are reopening their doors next Monday to welcome customers again.

Just past the edge of Broad Street, on the way to Edgbaston, another milestone for the project was reached last month with the final tracks for the Birmingham Westside Metro extension welded into place signalling that the project is truly entering its final stages (see overleaf).

We recognise that every business is different and you may have some specific questions about our activities as you continue to plan your re-opening. You are able to get in touch with Shervorne Brown, your dedicated Stakeholder Liaison Officer, on the details on the last page.

Progress photos - May 2021





Final piece of track is welded into place

A major milestone was reached on the project recently as the last piece of track was welded into place on Hagley Road.



This significant achievement means passenger services to a new terminus at 54 Hagley Road continue to be on track to commence later this year.

As main construction on the project begins to wrap up, finishing works, including street scene improvements and the installation of overhead line equipment, will commence along with essential testing and commissioning before passenger services begin later in the year.



Marketing support provided for businesses in April

In last month's reopening special, we shared how we had teamed up with Made TV to support businesses who were opening their doors again on 12 April.

A number of venues from Birmingham's famous 'Golden Mile' got in touch to share their plans for re-opening, including The Canal House and Craft. The Communications Team at Midland Metro Alliance worked to share updates from these fantastic bars and restaurants across social media and by linking them up with Made TV for featuring on local television.

Antony Lowbridge-Ellis, Head of Communications at Midland Metro Alliance, said: "It's a been really tough time for hospitality sector due to the ongoing impact of Covid-19 and we wanted to support these fantastic venues as they began to re-open and welcome back customers. We pleased that many bars, pubs and restaurants on Broad Street and Brindleyplace were able to be featured on local TV and in-turn had bespoke content made for them which they could share on their own social media channels."

You can check out this content by visiting the Midland Metro Alliance on Facebook or Twitter and if you'd interested in similar support, reach out to us using the contact details on the last page.



New plans from Birmingham City Council for Paradise prioritise public transport and active travel

The newly-unveiled Paradise Public Transport Improvement Scheme looks to respond to the city's air pollution challenges by prioritising the road for buses, trams, hackney carriages and bicycles.

Paradise Circus, renamed Lyon Queensway, was initially closed to through traffic in September 2018, in order to facilitate phase one of the Birmingham Westside Metro extension to the current Library terminus and the Paradise redevelopment. The road is within the city's Clean Air Zone, which launches on 1 June and is being introduced as part of Birmingham's commitment to improve air quality by reducing the volume of polluting vehicles entering the city.

Birmingham City Council's Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment, Councillor Waseem Zaffar, said: "I am absolutely committed to de-carbonising transport, reducing air pollution and improving travel and transport across the city. For the health of our citizens we simply cannot continue to have the number of high polluting private vehicles travelling through this area as they were previously. Transforming the city centre is one of the big moves outlined in the draft Birmingham Transport Plan. Fewer cars and more people travelling by bus, tram or train means less congestion and better air quality for everybody. To achieve this vision, we must ensure that public transport is constantly improving to make journeys quicker, easier and more reliable."

Birmingham City Council (BCC) are proposing to reopen part of Lyon Queensway to buses, taxis and cycles only, and create a new access road between the two A38 slip roads over the main A38 route. This will allow the Metro to operate efficiently and the new cross-city bus routes to have priority over other transport modes.

These changes will still assist people in accessing the Paradise development and other key locations, as:

- All traffic will continue to be able to use the tunnel beneath the Paradise development for through trips on the A38
- Local traffic will be able to use the A38 (from the south) to access Holliday Street, buildings in the Paradise development, Town Hall and Swallow Street
- Local traffic will be able to use the A38 (from the north) to access buildings in the north part of the Paradise development
- Local traffic will be able to use the Middleway (B4135 Summer Hill Road) to access Cambridge Street and Paradise car park; and
- Buses and taxis will be able to use Lyon Queensway, accesses from the A38, Centenary Square (Broad Street), Sandpits/Parade and Brunel Street.

A simple U-turn facility will be built by Midland Metro Alliance, working on behalf of BCCI, between the two Suffolk Street (A38) slip roads to allow access for public transport and local access to the area for local business and residents. This would also be restricted to:

- bus services, hackney carriages, cycles;
- Paradise access 1 and 2 traffic (including Town Hall);
- Holliday St traffic that can't exit under canal bridge; and
- Arena Dandara servicing access (located on the slip road).

The proposed loop allows tram priority as well as access for Paradise traffic whilst mitigating against excessive queuing on the slip roads and across the new tram tracks. Further details on the construction will be shared in the coming weeks.

The initial proposals were shared with key stakeholders, including site managers and Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) earlier this year. The public consultation will run via the Council's BeHeard platform from 11 May to 1 June 2021. Find out more about the proposals and the consultation at <https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/economy/paradise-public-transport-improvement-scheme>

Metro Covid rules reminder as customers return

With more daily traveling taking place with Covid-19 restrictions easing, members of the West Midlands Metro team have been out and about on the network this week reminding customers to wear a face covering.



Vicki Bennett, Metro Customer Service Manager, explained: "Since the statutory requirement was

introduced as one of measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19, we've seen the vast majority of customers following the rules. Metro is also urging customers to continue social distancing whenever possible and reminding them of its online tools to help them plan their journey – including an online 'heat map' that's colour coded to highlight when trams are likely to be quieter.

Customers travelling on Metro between Wolverhampton and Birmingham urged to plan their journeys as improvement works set to begin

**Service Disruption
29 May to 6 June
Plan ahead**



From Saturday 29 May until Sunday 6 June (inclusive), trams will not operate between Wednesbury Parkway and Wolverhampton St George's as working will be being carried out to demolish Arthur Street bridge in Bilston.

Find out more at
<https://westmidlandsmetro.com/using-the-metro/service-status/>

First of eight new trams delivered ready for expansion of West Midlands Metro lines

West Midlands Metro has taken delivery of the first of eight new state-of-the-art trams arriving this year ahead of the expansion of the region's network.

The third generation Urbos tram has been shipped from the factory in Zaragoza, Spain and arrived at the Metro depot in Wednesbury on a huge 40m lorry. The new tram, which weighs 45.5 tonnes, was then carefully lowered down a specially built ramp onto the track.

Eight new Metro vehicles are arriving in the West Midlands over the next few months and the first five will be put into service later this year ready for the opening of the Birmingham Westside Metro extension and another route in Wolverhampton city centre.



How can I get further information?

For further information please visit:
www.metroalliance.co.uk
email:
communications@metroalliance.co.uk
Or phone:
0121 643 8729

Alternatively, you can follow:
 [company/midland-metro-alliance](#)
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