



Transport for
West Midlands



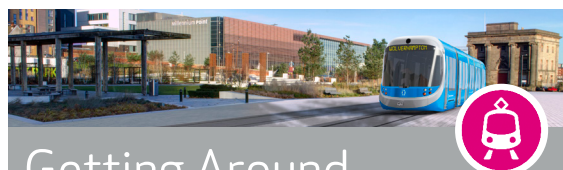
Midland
Metro Alliance

Eastside EDITION

ISSUE 4 AUGUST 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 progress on Lower Bull Street, West Midlands Bus services are diverted to nearby bus stops in the city centre.

Lane restrictions in place on Digbeth High Street as Metro and street scene improvements begin in this area. Those travelling through the area should plan their journeys and allow extra time.

There are changes to Metro services while work is carried out to on track replacement works and activity to tie-in the existing track to the Birmingham Eastside Metro extension. For more info on services, please visit www.westmidlandsmetro.com.

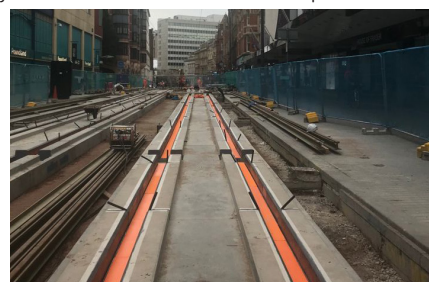
If you do need to use public transport during this time, you can get the latest updates on bus, train or tram services by visiting: wmnetwork.co.uk/networkoverview

The busiest times to travel are varying as Covid-19 measures change. Please check with public transport operators before any essential travel.

Tramway upgrades and maintenance activity on track as more than half of track bed units now installed in Bull Street and Corporation Street

The first pieces of pre-made track bed have been installed in both Lower Bull Street and Corporation Street junction, marking that the maintenance and upgrade work which got underway at the end of last month is progressing well.

More than half of the required pre-cast concrete bases, which will shortly hold new tram rails, have now been lowered into place by a mobile jib crane, onto the junction of Corporation Street and Bull Street as well as further down the busy thoroughfare. The installation of these key pieces of infrastructure come swiftly after the road surface was removed and just weeks after the road closed on 25 July 2021, highlighting that the project is on-track for its October completion.



Lower Bull Street and Corporation Street were closed in June and late July, respectively, to facilitate Metro construction and essential maintenance works between Bull Street and Grand Central tram stops. The city-centre route is set to reopen in October this year as testing, commissioning and driver training takes place ahead of the new extension to Edgbaston Village opening.

Maria Ion, Project Director for the Midland Metro Alliance, said: "That we have laid more than half of the track bed units so soon into the project is a clear sign that the works are continuing at pace and on schedule to complete in October. We thank all in the area for their continued patience as we work both day and night to complete this essential activity."

To mark the milestone, time-lapse footage has been released by the Midland Metro Alliance capturing the construction progress from the date of the closure to the first pre-cast units being installed. You can view this here: <https://tinyurl.com/MidMetAll>

MMA Quantity Surveying Apprentices make the grade in A-Level results

Apprentices at the Midland Metro Alliance have celebrated top A-level results.

Evans Addae and Finn Brittle, who studied at Thomas Telford UTC in Wolverhampton, received bumper grades in maths and English as well as achieving triple distinctions in their Level 3 Extended Diploma in Construction and The Built Environment, which is equivalent to three A-levels.

They joined the alliance as apprentices in Quantity Surveying earlier this month where they will learn first-hand about the discipline on projects including the Birmingham Eastside Metro extension, the route currently under construction in Wolverhampton and the biggest light rail extension project in the UK, the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro extension.

Simon Maxfield, Vice Principal at Thomas Telford UTC, said: "We are very proud of our students and their exam successes and would like to thank all at Midland Metro Alliance for continuing to offer them amazing opportunities to kickstart their careers."



How can I get further information?

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Shadow Secretary of State for Transport praises work underway on Metro extensions in east and west of Birmingham after visiting worksites

Jim McMahon, Shadow Transport Secretary, visited ongoing construction activity underway in both the east and west of Birmingham by Midland Metro Alliance last week as part of a visit to see transport projects underway in city, including at Moor Street Station and projects in the Curzon area.

Following the visit, Jim McMahon, Shadow Secretary of State for Transport, said: "It's great to see the work that's being done to extend Birmingham's tram network both in the east and west sides of the city and to hear about work already underway improving tram links in the Black Country."

Much of the work on this second phase of the Birmingham Westside extension which was part of the visit was completed during the three national lockdowns with social distancing, regular Covid-19 testing and enhanced cleaning regimes in place to keep staff members and the general public safe.

Peter Cushing, Director at Midland Metro Alliance, added: "Our teams have continued to work incredibly hard in challenging times to deliver Metro extensions in the city. It is fantastic to share a view of a near-finished product on Broad Street and highlight an area of Birmingham really transformed through the addition of a tramway. Although clearly in a different stage of development, it was a positive experience to share an insight into the works for the complex delta junction at Lower Bull Street in the city centre with the first pre-made track bed units being installed during the visit."



Bumper weekend announced for final Summer in the Square

As the summer holidays come to a close, Colmore BID is marking the end of its Summer in the Square programme with a bumper weekend to celebrate the Bank Holiday between 26 and 30 August.

After seven weeks of events, the colourful beach huts in Victoria Square will open for the final time with a special Bank Holiday Summer in the Square weekend. Coffee shops Java Roastery and Urban Coffee, Argentinian steak restaurant Gaucho, craft ale bar Purecraft Bar & Kitchen and street food favourite Roastie Toastie will be in the beach huts, serving some of their most popular dishes as well as a range of drinks, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic.

There will also be live entertainment over the course of the weekend, provided by Luxury Live, so make sure to bring your dancing shoes. The huts will be open for an extended period of time, from 11am-6pm, Thursday through Bank Holiday Monday.

For more information about Summer in the Square and other events organised by Colmore BID, visit

www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com

In the spotlight: The Clean Kilo

Many of us are looking to eat healthily and be more sustainable with our shopping choice; Digbeth's The Clean Kilo is an excellent place in the city to do both.

The store encourages customers to think carefully about food quantities in order to minimise wastage. Shoppers can use containers brought from home (such as Tupperware), or even purchase glass jars in store to hold goods like cereal, grains and salad products. By buying your groceries from here locals are helping to minimise plastic waste but also are supporting the local economy.

The Clean Kilo remains open as usual during our works on Digbeth High Street and you can find out more by visiting: <https://www.thecleankilo.co.uk/>



Road surface removal begins on Digbeth High Street following completion of first phase of activity

Preliminary works to remove the central reservation along the line of route on Digbeth High Street wrapped up in recent days with the construction team now turning their attention to removal of road surface on the outbound lanes of Digbeth High Street, following a change in traffic management last weekend.

In order to allow this activity to begin, the team also worked to create a temporary surface for replacement bus stopping locations.

Work in this area will see the Metro being built along with a refreshed public realm. The public realm designs have seen the Metro tracks realigned to allow for wider pavements, better cycle routes and increased cycle parking along the corridor.

These enhancements, which have been underway since early July, will make the area more attractive for pedestrians and residents, increasing footfall, supporting future commercial investment and growth in local businesses.



5G Partnership set to transform transport sector with UK first 5G-enabled tram

West Midlands Metro (WMM) is at the forefront of a pioneering project that looks set to transform light rail and the wider transport sector, with the trial launch of the UK's very first 5G-enabled tram.

Working closely with West Midlands 5G, a partnership of public and private organisations to provide a test bed for a wide range of technologies to boost safety, operational efficiency, and the customer experience. From live travel updates and almost instantaneous incident reporting to improving access for people with visual impairments, the technology is unlocking a wealth of benefits for both customers and operator.

As well as securing a place in the history books, Tram 35 is at the centre of a series of trials and will be playing a key role in fulfilling one of the operators' missions to deliver a safe and secure, reliable, and sustainable service for the people who rely on it every day.



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