



Transport for
West Midlands



Midland
Metro Alliance

Transforming WOLVERHAMPTON

ISSUE 19 AUGUST 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:

As works progress, Railway Drive will remain closed and will be accessible to permit holders only.

Pedestrian access is being maintained at all times. However, as it is a live work site, pedestrian routes may change periodically as the work progresses.

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.



Concrete pour and rail installation on the Wolverhampton City Centre Metro extension signals continuing progress

A significant concrete pour for the Wolverhampton City Centre Metro extension took place a little earlier this month on Railway Drive signalling that the project remains on track following a return to site earlier in the summer.

The concrete pour took place a few weeks ahead of the first tracks being laid in this section a few days ago.

The Wolverhampton City Centre Metro extension is part of City of Wolverhampton Council's and Transport for West Midlands' plans to create a seamless transport interchange in the city centre. Once completed, West Midlands Metro will serve two new tram stops; one at the city's bus station on Pipers Row and one at Wolverhampton railway station, allowing people to easily change between other modes of transport to continue their journeys.

Councillor Steve Evans, City of Wolverhampton Council Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change, said: "A lot of hard work has been undertaken to deliver an Interchange scheme which will give our city the attractive public transport gateway that it deserves. It was fantastic to see the work underway today for the Metro and it is all the more impressive that this activity continues to be safely delivered by the team on site with the challenging circumstances of the ongoing pandemic. The Interchange is a big part of how we are re-imagining and re-inventing our city centre to help boost the local economy, create jobs and make the most of our neighbouring canalside areas, where we have major housing plans."

Paul Brown, MMA Construction Director, added: "It was brilliant to celebrate a real-step forward for this project with the concrete pour and now the first rails down outside of Railway Plaza. I am sure that those who are now using the revitalised station can now see how much closer we are to opening the Metro line, too."



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Additional work undertaken for the extension in recent weeks

Much progress has been made in the city centre since construction recommenced in the spring.

As well as main construction on Railway Drive, the team have also been carrying out finishing works including the installation of new kerbing at the centre island while ducting works have also taken place outside of the i9 building.

Meanwhile, time has also been invested in improving existing infrastructure with upgrades also being carried out to the current electric power system ahead of the new line opening for passenger services.

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, 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 Wolverhampton City Centre Metro extension, those underway in Birmingham 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."

Doors open to second half of new Wolverhampton Railway Station

The second half of Wolverhampton's new Railway Station opened to the public a little earlier this summer.



The station is part of the dramatic transformation taking place under the city's award-winning £150 million Interchange scheme which is delivering improvements to bus, Metro, cycle and train connectivity.

Following the completion of main construction on Phase 2 in spring, this section of the station building has now been fully commissioned and authorised by the rail authorities.

Phase 1 of the station has been open to the public since May last year with train services running. It includes six ticket vending machines, new British Transport Police, toilet, accessibility and baby changing facilities, three retail units ready to be fitted out, train crew accommodation, and a spacious concourse. Phase 2 includes three more retail units ready to be fitted out, as well as a customer lounge and dedicated customer help point.

The works compound in front of the new station has remained to enable the Midland Metro Alliance to complete the final section of the Metro extension to the station plaza, creating a fully integrated transport hub with the neighbouring bus station.

Andy Street, the Mayor of the West Midlands, said: "Wolverhampton Railway Station is a crucial part of public transport plans for the West Midlands. It really is an incredible gateway to the city and I hope residents can feel a great sense of pride in it. The completion of phase two is also brilliant news for our Metro extension to the station, as we're now able to get shovels back in the ground and complete the works. This means residents in Wolverhampton will soon be able to travel seamlessly across the wider West Midlands and beyond once we have the HS2 stations up and running."

Paul Brown, MMA Construction Director, added: "The alliance team have worked extremely hard since returning to the city in March and I am proud of what has been achieved during these challenging times. We will have a presence in the city centre into the winter and will continue to work closely with our partners to minimise impact wherever possible."

Wolverhampton Interchange Partnership consists of City of Wolverhampton Council, Ion, West Midlands Combined Authority, West Midlands Railway, Avanti West Coast, Network Rail, Midland Metro Alliance, Canal & River Trust, Black Country LEP and SLC Rail.

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.



Wolverhampton BID ambassadors support businesses to test regularly

Wolverhampton BID's City Ambassadors have been visiting businesses in the city centre to distribute coronavirus testing kits for employees to use at home.

The BID's City Ambassador Team have been calling at participating public-facing businesses in the City Centre BID Zone to hand out Covid-19 Lateral Flow Test (LFT) kits, information and advice.

They have also been encouraging businesses and staff who have direct contact with members of the public to take regular rapid tests to protect themselves, their colleagues, and their customers.

Cherry Shine, Wolverhampton BID Director, said: "Wolverhampton's City Centre BID's Ambassadors [have been] visiting public-facing businesses in the city centre BID area and handing out LFT test kits. We want to make testing as easy as possible to businesses open to the public...in order to protect their staff and customers, so that people can shop and socialise safely."



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