



Transport for
West Midlands



Midland
Metro Alliance

Connecting SANDWELL & DUDLEY

ISSUE 13 FEBRUARY 28 2022

Welcome

Welcome to 'Connecting Sandwell & Dudley', a bi-monthly publication designed to keep those working and living in the area up-to-date on the progress of the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro extension which we're building 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 work for the Metro extension progresses in Dudley town centre, one-way traffic restrictions remain in place on Castle Hill in Dudley with vehicles travelling in the direction of Castlegate island only with clearly marked diversion routes in place to direct traffic.

Castle Hill, Dudley

One-way traffic management
in place

From Spring 2021

Plan ahead



Plan ahead:
www.metroalliance.co.uk

The overflow car park at Dudley Port Railway Station remains closed to allow access to the railway corridor where the Metro is being constructed.

The main Park and Ride car park, including provision for disabled and car sharing bays, remains open throughout construction for the Metro.

Cycle storage provision remains in place at Dudley Port and the station is regularly served by buses, too.

Dudley Port Park & Ride

Overflow closure

From Monday 24 August

Plan ahead



Plan ahead:
www.metroalliance.co.uk

Those who need to travel are being advised to plan ahead and leave more time for journeys.

First rails installed in Dudley for Metro extension.

The first section of rail has been installed in Dudley in a "momentous" step forward for the highly-anticipated Metro extension.

A total of 300 metres of track is now in place on Castle Hill after it was successfully delivered to site late last month. The installation marks a significant step forward for the light rail project – the biggest of its kind in the UK – and comes as the borough awaits news on its bid for city status.

Local leaders visited the site to see the rail in situ and congratulate workers on reaching another significant milestone on the project.



Speaking at the site, Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands, said: "It was just a little over two weeks ago that we were marking the delivery of the rail and it's fantastic to now see this track in place along Castle Hill. This is a momentous milestone for the people of Dudley and the Black Country as it means that we are one step closer to unlocking the huge benefits this Metro extension will bring to the region."

Councillor Patrick Harley, Leader of Dudley Council, added: "Seeing the first bit of track on the ground is a massive symbol of progress in this scheme, which will be a real game-changer for Dudley. We have huge ambitions to become the City of Dudley and this, as part of a regeneration package totalling nearly a billion pounds, shows we mean business and are firmly on track."

Months of preparation has taken place ahead of this next phase of construction including the removal of the road surface and the upgrading and diverting of utilities in the area. Following the successful installation of the first section of track, the team at the Midland Metro Alliance, which is designing and delivering the route on behalf of Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), is now welding the rail into place.



Stephen Christopher, Operations Director at MMA, said: "The team have worked extremely hard and we are delighted to have reached this important stage of the construction progress. There is a lot of work that goes on outside of the public eye and the recent rail installation really does bring this project to life."

This Metro extension will boost public transport in the Black Country, providing much-needed links to the

existing heavy and light rail networks, and helping connect people to education, training and career opportunities further afield in the West Midlands.



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)



Connecting SANDWELL & DUDLEY

ISSUE 13 FEBRUARY 28 2022

**BUILD THE
FUTURE**
#NAW2022

Alliance celebrates apprentices working on the Black Country Metro extension



The Midland Metro Alliance is proud to facilitate apprenticeships which span a diverse range of fields, from quantity surveying to communications, marketing, procurement, and business administration. In 2018, the organisation also led an industry group which helped to create the UK's first apprenticeship for light rail construction.

In the autumn of 2021, the alliance welcomed ten new apprentices who work across its projects in office and on-site roles.

Two of the MMA's current apprentice cohort, Finley Brittle and Evans Addae, are working as Assistant Quantity Surveyors on the Black Country Metro extension whilst studying for a Degree Apprenticeship at the University of Wolverhampton's School of Architecture and the Built Environment.

Commenting on his apprentice experience to date Finley said: "It's a huge relief to know I will have a degree at the end of my apprenticeship without student loans to pay back." Evans added: "My apprenticeship has already opened so many doors and has kick-started my career."



Shermorie Richardson
Apprentice

During National Apprenticeship Week, TV station Local TV: Birmingham, shone a spotlight on MMA apprentices working on the project. The apprentices, based at Danks Way in Tipton, shared how working on the Metro has set them on a career path within the construction industry.

Apprentice steals the show at Bake-Off event



A line manager and apprentice duo represented the Midland Metro Alliance at a Bake-Off competition organised by the National Apprenticeship Ambassador Network (NAAN).

The event, inspired by the hit Channel Four show, took place at a barracks in Lincolnshire where contestants were asked to bake two items that linked to the theme of 'an army marches on its stomach'.

Sophie Yardley, Digital Marketing Assistant, who is also one of the alliance's latest cohort of apprentices, teamed up with Cadisha Brown, Communications Manager to whisk up school dinner favourite concrete cake and the British classic Garibaldi biscuits.

Sophie and Cadisha scooped the second prize – the first time a runner-up position had been awarded by judges – after narrowly missing out on the top spot. Our compliments to the chefs!



**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)



Connecting SANDWELL & DUDLEY

ISSUE 13 FEBRUARY 2022

All change – New Project Director for the Metro extension



A new Project Director has been appointed on the scheme.

Tom Maplethorpe has taken on the role having worked as Project Manager on the extension for two years. Tom replaces Ian Collins who is now the alliance's Development Director.

Commenting on his new role, Tom, who was named Employee of the Year at the 2019 Global Light Rail Awards, said: "I am delighted to be taking over the reins at

such an exciting time. It is brilliant to see the MMA's hard work begin to bear fruit such as the recent successful placement of track in Dudley town centre"

Ensuring safety during Storm Dudley and Eunice



As storms Dudley and Eunice swept across the UK, our Health and Safety, project and Traffic Management Teams ensured that our sites were made safe for our workers and the general public.

They acted quickly to manage risks posed by the storms by

cancelling all activities requiring lifting and working from height; tying down traffic cones and barriers and dropping tower lights.

Keeping in touch: Sedgley Road and Castle Hill



Since work began on the Black Country Metro extension more than eighteen months ago, we have endeavoured to keep everyone in the loop with progress. Recently, the route's dedicated

Stakeholder Liaison team gave localised briefings to businesses and residents on Sedgley Road, Tipton and Dudley town centre.

Stakeholder Liaison Officer, Tom Bissell, said: "We recognise that those living in the area or operating a business in close proximity to our work sites may have specific questions about progress, so we wanted to take the opportunity to give a bit more insight into exactly what it is that we have been doing. As ever, we thank them for their patience and understanding"

Whilst the updates are specific for the local areas detailed above, the newsletters are also available online at www.metroalliance.co.uk



Team recognised in Considerate Constructors scheme



The project team are celebrating after receiving an 'excellent' rating in the Considerate Constructors Scheme. The project scored a rating of 43 out of 45 for continuing to present a 'positive and professional initial external appearance', as well as for keeping stakeholders 'well informed' on the progress of the

project and scheduled works which might be disruptive.

Judges were also impressed with the 'comprehensive' social media coverage of the scheme and its handling of environmental issues.

They added: "The contractor is promoting the industry to local schools and colleges and It is good to see that a number of apprentices are undertaking work experience on the project with more opportunities planned as the contract progresses. Environmental issues continue to be to the fore and again it is good to see that a continuous improvement approach is being adopted in this respect. Training and development for operatives is encouraged and supported, with all offices and facilities together with compound areas being kept clean, neat and tidy."

Tom Maplethorpe, Project Director, said: "We are delighted to have received an excellent rating. Well done to all involved who have worked hard to ensure this standard"



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)

Connecting SANDWELL & DUDLEY

ISSUE 13 FEBRUARY 28 2022

Helping keep the route tidy



Our construction teams have been helping keep the area tidy by clearing rubbish that has been fly-tipped along the railway corridor.

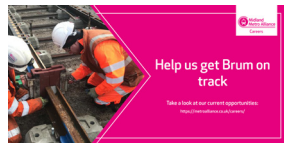
As reported in previous issues, the illegally dumped rubbish can cause health hazards, particularly if there are rusted or sharp metal objects to be disposed of and our staff are having to remove the waste in addition to their scheduled works.

Fly-tipping can be dangerous, pollute land and waterways and costs significant amounts of money to clear away. In both the boroughs of Sandwell and Dudley you will be issued with a fixed penalty notice if you are caught fly-tipping or littering.

We are hiring!

The Midland Metro Alliance is currently recruiting for several roles including Head of Commercial Delivery, Senior Quantity Surveyor and Construction Manager.

If you are interested in taking your career to new heights, visit <https://metroalliance.co.uk/careers/>



Van donated to Sandwell charity



A van donated by the Midland Metro Alliance has helped a community organisation support those in need.

The vehicle has allowed Brushstrokes to deliver furniture, clothes and food to people who need it the most.

The van was donated to the scheme after its Resources Coordinator spoke about an increase demand in its

services during a Community Conversation event, which brings local businesses, non for profits and residents together to network, organised by MMA.

A representative from Brushstrokes, said: "Without [the van] we would certainly not be able to offer so much to our service users, or be able to collect or deliver the larger items we receive from our amazing supporters."



Public to get their say in shaping the region's transport system of the future

The public have been invited to have their say on a far-reaching strategy laying out how we can decarbonise the region's transport system and improve services over the next two decades.

The draft West Midlands Local Transport Plan (LTP), called Reimagining Transport in the West Midlands, shows how the region's transport bosses can meet the challenges of tackling climate change, reducing traffic congestion and improving access to transport while supporting the post-Covid 19 economic recovery.

The plan, drawn up by Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), also builds on changes in travel behaviour seen during the coronavirus pandemic such as increases in cycling, walking and scooting and a reduction in five-days-per-week commuting.

Key to delivering the first phase of the plan over the next five years will be the £1.3 billion City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement investment announced last month. The money will be used to bolster the offer of convenient and affordable alternatives to the private car such as expanding the Starley Network of safe cycle routes, greater integration of bus, rail, tram and bike hire ticketing and more bus priority routes.

The public are now invited to have their say on the draft Local Transport Plan via the website survey. <https://www.tfwm.org.uk/who-we-are/our-strategy/local-transport-plan/>



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)