



Transport for
West Midlands



Midland
Metro Alliance

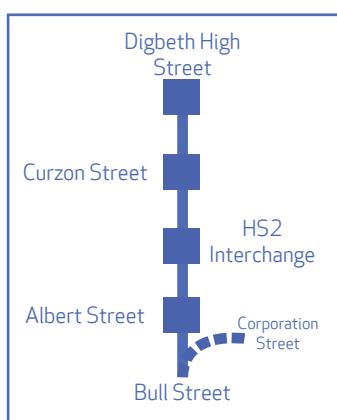
Eastside EDITION

ISSUE 9 AUGUST 2022

Welcome

Welcome to 'Eastside Edition', a 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).

When complete, four new tram stops will connect passengers from the existing Metro line at Bull Street to High Street Deritend in Digbeth, via Curzon Street Station, helping to connect more of the region to high-speed rail services.



Getting Around



For the latest information, advice and live info on the region's roads follow the @wmroads Twitter feed and for wider transport updates follow @transportforwm.

ICYMI: A round up of construction activity from the previous issue

The Hartwell's building in Digbeth was successfully demolished to allow trams to travel down Meriden Street and on to Digbeth High Street when the route opens for passenger service.

Construction of the planters on Lower Bull Street moved forward with the installation of steel reinforcement and the pouring of concrete.

Almost half of the new paving and kerbing has been installed on Digbeth High Street

The Digbeth construction site was dressed with new designs for the Commonwealth Games, while Lower Bull Street was opened up for pedestrians with temporary surfacing laid and fencing removed.

Heath Mill Lane closes as next phase of construction begins

Motorists are advised to plan ahead as Heath Mill Lane closes to traffic to allow essential works to take place.

Heath Mill Lane

Road closure

Monday 22 August - Friday 21 October

Plan ahead

Plan ahead:
www.metroalliance.co.uk

As construction on the scheme continues to progress, Heath Mill Lane has been closed at its junction with Digbeth High Street. This is to allow essential upgrades and diversions of utilities in the area get underway. A lane closure is also in place on Digbeth High Street, between Moat Lane and Rea Street, to enable the installation of a section of track and new kerblines.

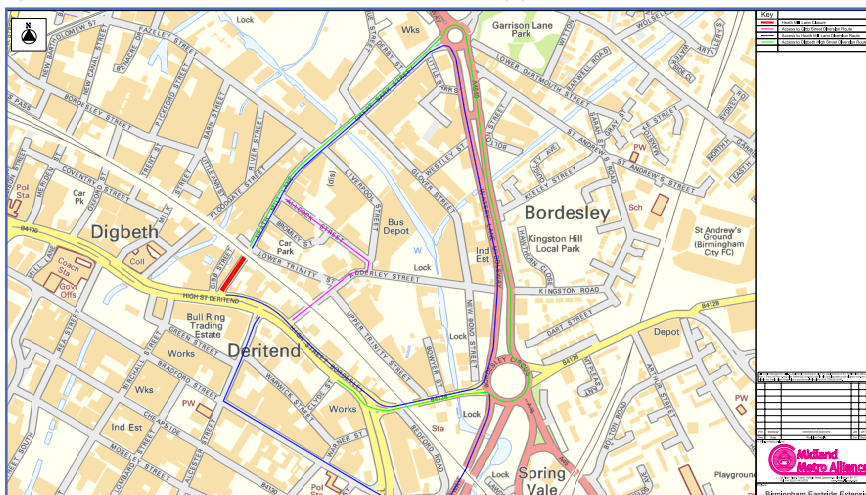
The road changes are anticipated to be in place until Friday 21 October when construction in this area is expected to be completed.

A clearly signed diversion route is in place via Bradford Street, Rea Street and Digbeth High Street for all vehicles leaving the city. Pedestrian access to Heath Mill Lane will continue to be maintained at all times.

The team have implemented measures to reduce noise and dust levels during the work, including the installation of sound cancelling blankets.

Hamish Falconer, Construction Manager, said: "The upgrading and diversion of utilities is a key part of the construction process. In order to carry out these works as safe as possible for our staff and the public the closure of Heath Mill Lane is required. We appreciate that this may cause some inconvenience for those living, working and visiting the area and we will work to minimise this wherever possible."

To view the full diversion map below, please visit: <https://metroalliance.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Heathmill-Lane-diversion-route-map.pdf>



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Construction activity recommences following successful Commonwealth Games event

Work has resumed along Lower Bull Street and Corporation Street following a brief pause in activity while the Commonwealth Games were being held.

The site boundaries were removed last month and temporary asphalt laid in areas to allow pedestrians and the many visitors to the city enjoy the area during the sporting event.

All fencing in the area has now been reinstalled and the construction team have returned to site to continue with activity including the installation of planters.

Some pedestrian diversions that were in place before the Commonwealth Games have also been reinstated.

Localised and discreet works continued along Digbeth High Street during the Games while more impactful activity, including the installation of paving, have resumed this month.



Digbeth information session a success

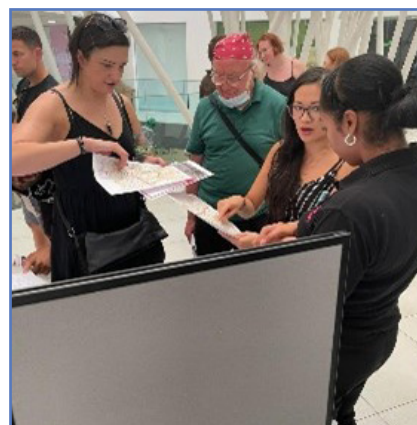
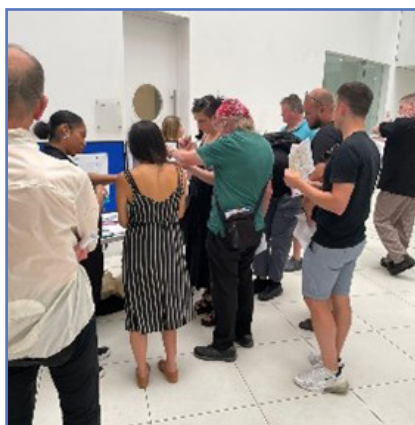
Residents and businesses got a chance to meet the team and find out more about the scheme during an information session.

The stakeholder engagement event, organised by our dedicated Stakeholder Liaison Officer for the route, Shervorne Brown, was an opportunity for those living and working in the area to learn about upcoming activity in Digbeth.

Held at Zellig, representatives from Birmingham City Council were also on hand to provide an update on the public realm works, which are part of the city council and the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership's masterplan to regenerate the area.

Shervorne said: "The event was a fantastic opportunity for people to ask questions and find out more about the project. Now that construction activity has resumed following the Games, it's important for us to keep stakeholders informed along the way; and what better way to do it than face-to-face while all in the same room. We had a great turn out and it was fantastic to meet so many new people. I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came and to Zellig for providing the space to host the session."

If you were unable to attend and would like to find out more, you can view a frequently asked questions document on the extension and forthcoming activity at Health Mill Lane, here: metroalliance.co.uk/projects/birmingham-eastside-extension/



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Discover Digbeth's latest businesses

Digbeth has some amazing hidden gems and we wanted to take the time to update you on two of the latest businesses to join the area's creative scene. To find out more about these businesses, visit our social channels.



Kilo Ziro

Looking to enjoy some down time – sustainably? Digbeth's newest bar has it all covered.

Enjoy locally roasted coffee while you work or sip on mindful cocktails as you catch up with friends.

Kilo Ziro has brought the UK's first zero waste café bar to Birmingham using local and sustainable ingredients. What's more, you can even fill up your own wine bottles to take home!



SC FIT Central

If the recent success of the Commonwealth Games has inspired you to be more active, the team at class-based fitness community SCFIT have you covered.

The team, based on the High Street, can support you to hit your health and fitness goals.

Wayfinding signs help support local businesses

New signs have been installed on Digbeth High Street to support the many businesses in the area.

The specially designed wayfinding has been placed on fencing near Allison Street, following the removal of the Commonwealth Games site dressing, to direct pedestrians to the shops, bars restaurants and venues in Digbeth.

Antony Lowbridge-Ellis, Head of Communications, said: "Digbeth is awash with vibrant businesses and it is important that we ensure visitors can navigate the area during construction. There are so many hidden gems in Digbeth and we will continue to encourage people to support local with our mesh designs. We understand that our works can cause disruption and we are committed to supporting businesses with marketing support where possible."



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News from TfWM:

West Midlands' public transport hits record numbers throughout Commonwealth Games

Spectators, residents, and visitors to the West Midlands helped the region's public transport network reach record numbers during the Commonwealth Games.

Local train, tram, cycle, and bus travel all saw record breaking numbers across the eleven days as hundreds of thousands of sports fans made their way around the region.

Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), working with transport operators and local authorities, developed, delivered and coordinated transport services for spectators throughout the Games, including running some 600 shuttle buses to and from venues across the region.

Records included:

- More than 650,000 spectator journeys on shuttle buses.
- Birmingham New Street recording its busiest day since opening, with over 255,000 passengers travelling through the station on Saturday August 6.
- The West Midlands Metro patronage doubling its pre-covid numbers.
- West Midlands Cycle Hire doubling the number of bike and e-bike rentals with 28,000 hires during the Commonwealth Games.
- 64,910 parking spaces being booked through the park and ride service across the region throughout the Games, serving approximately 179,800 spectators.

Thousands also made use of regular local bus, rail and tram services which was included with their spectator tickets and staff and volunteer accreditation.

These records were broken because all event ticket holders had public transport included in their ticket price as part of the Commonwealth Games Transport Plan. This was agreed by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Board in June 2021 and helped to make Birmingham 2022 a greener Games.

The focus on public transport and shuttle buses meant that private car use and traffic congestion was kept to an absolute minimum throughout.

Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands and chair of the WMCA, said: "As we reflect on the phenomenal success of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, it's only right that we take a moment to appreciate all the work that has been done to manage the record numbers of people visiting our region. It has been a remarkable team effort to get fans to and from sporting events right across the West Midlands so I'd like to say a huge thank you and well done to everyone involved in keeping the system moving."

Cllr Ian Ward, WMCA portfolio holder for transport and leader of Birmingham City Council, added: "The transport system has played a crucial part in what has been a fantastic Commonwealth Games for Birmingham and the West Midlands – a once in a lifetime event enjoyed by all. It is testament to the planning and delivery of our services that both public transport and our road network was by and large kept moving throughout the eleven days of action."



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