



Transport for
West Midlands



Midland
Metro Alliance

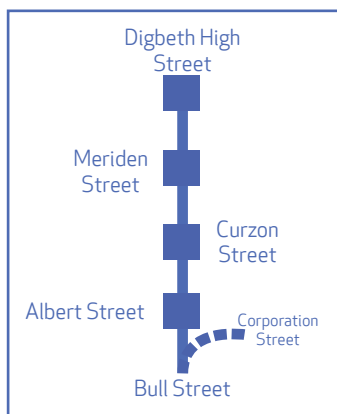
Eastside EDITION

ISSUE 11 DECEMBER 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

Scaffolding and hoarding was installed along the Kings Parade building in Dale End in preparation for the building to be demolished.

The existing road surface was removed on Upper Bull Street ready for a new surface to be laid.

Adderley Street and a section of Digbeth High Street were reopened to traffic.

! What you need to know

With the ever-changing pace of the construction activity that is underway for the Eastside extension, here is a snapshot of important information that you need to know; some of which is covered in more detail for you throughout the newsletter.

Lower Bull Street area

- Works to upgrade and divert utilities are currently taking place outside Costcutters and the Peaky Blinder and Square Peg pubs.
- Scaffolding and hoarding are in place along the Kings Parade building in Dale End;
- If you are driving in the area you will need to follow a clearly-signed diversion route via Carrs Lane, while pedestrian access is maintained at all times;
- Disabled bays on Albert Street have been suspended and the nearest provision for blue-badge holders is on Dale End and High Street You can read all about these changes on page two.

Moor Street Queensway, Park Street and Albert Street areas

- Works to upgrade and divert utilities in the area are currently underway outside the Clayton Hotel;
- At times there may be localised footpath closures whilst the work is underway;
- We will continue to work closely with partners at Birmingham City Council, HS2 Ltd and Transport for West Midlands, as well as local stakeholders, to minimise disruption where possible.

Digbeth High Street

- Urban realm improvements have been completed on the Custard Factory side of the high street and significant fencing has been removed;
- All vehicular traffic heading in and out of the city is now using the new carriageway, with one lane of single line traffic in each direction;
- All of the side streets have reopened to vehicular traffic, with the exception of Meriden Street where further construction work is scheduled;
- Our activity has switched to the coach station side of the high street as we start works to convert the existing carriageway into the new tramway;
- See page two for more details on these recent traffic changes.

I would like to thank those of you who came out to our event at The Square Shopping Centre. It was great to meet many of you face-to-face to discuss the progress of the project and future works. (See more on page four)

All that's left to say is to wish you all a happy festive season and all the best for 2023.

Shervorne Brown, your dedicated Stakeholder Liaison Officer.



How can I get further information?

It would really help us if you share this newsletter with your colleagues, customers or people you think would benefit from this progress update.

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)



Eastside EDITION

ISSUE 11 DECEMBER 2022

New phase for project as preparations begin for track laying in Digbeth

Urban realm improvements which will, in part, help to transform Digbeth have been completed and a new carriageway opened as the project progresses to the next stage of construction.

New paving has now been installed along the length of the northern side of Digbeth High Street allowing activity to switch to the opposite side of the busy thoroughfare ahead of track laying commencing later next year.

This significant step forward in the project means that all traffic travelling in and out of the city is using the new carriageway laid as part of the overall scheme, with the opposite side of the road, adjacent to the coach station, soon to be transformed into a segregated tramway and pedestrian and public boulevard.

Michael Anderson, Metro Programme Director at TfWM, said: "It is great to see construction on the Birmingham Eastside Metro extension moving in the right direction. As with most construction projects of this kind it has not come without its challenges, but the completion of the main urban realm activity marks a new and exciting phase of this ambitious scheme, and welcome improvement for businesses and residents in the area with a new and open aspect to Digbeth High Street. It means that the team can start to prepare for track to be laid on the opposite side of the high street which is when the extension will really start to take shape. This project will be a game-changer for those living, working and visiting the Eastside of the city, as its links with HS2 will help improve connectivity in the Digbeth area as well as to other parts of the region."

The urban realm improvements are part of Birmingham City Council and the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership's (GBSLEP) masterplan to regenerate the area. As well as new paving, these works will include the creation of wide areas of attractive public and green spaces together with improvements to walking and public transport provision.

Anita Bhalla, Interim Chair at GBSLEP, said: "With HS2's new Curzon Station on the doorstep and its reputation as one of our leading regional creative clusters, Digbeth continues to attract major investment for new infrastructure. With the BBC announcing a move to the old Typhoo factory, the opening of a new world-class Creative Content Hub and Steven Knight building his studios, this part of Birmingham will be brimming with people looking to work, visit and live. Through the £15.7 million Enterprise Zone funding, we are maximising on the opportunity of the tram extension to Digbeth by creating better, greener spaces for visitors and residents as well as improving the environment for cyclists and pedestrians. This is critical to delivering on our mission to drive inclusive and sustainable growth for our region."

Following the completion of the main urban realm works, all significant fencing on the northern side of the high street, which is close to popular venues such as the O2 Academy, has now been removed, while all of the side streets have also reopened to vehicular traffic, with the exception of Meriden Street where further construction activity including track laying will be taking place.

Hamish Falconer, Project Manager at the Midland Metro Alliance, said: "We are delighted that this phase of our street scene improvement works are now completed in Digbeth. The removal of the majority of the fencing in this section has allowed the area to be opened up further to pedestrians just in time for the festive period. Though urban realm activity on the northern side of the high street has been completed, works, such as the installation of planters, bus shelters and street furniture, will continue."

Rose Rees, Head of Engagement and Skills, added: "We understand that our works can cause disruption to nearby businesses and I would like to thank them all for their patience and understanding. Our dedicated Stakeholder Liaison Officer for the route will continue to have a presence in the area and will be on hand to provide support where needed."

Video puts Digbeth in the spotlight

With the northside of Digbeth High Street opened up further to pedestrians, a video has been created to promote all that the area has to offer.

The Midland Metro Alliance worked with production company Local TV: Birmingham to film many of the bars, restaurants, shops and entertainment venues that line the high street as well as some of the hidden gems on the side streets.

The short production has been broadcast on Local TV: Birmingham and across the alliance's social channels. The businesses have also been given a copy for their own promotional purposes.

Antony Lowbridge-Ellis, Head of Communications at the Midland Metro Alliance, said: "With Christmas just around the corner, it is the perfect time to showcase businesses in Digbeth and encourage more people to visit this vibrant part of the city. Now that the majority of our site fencing has been removed it is so much easier for pedestrians to walk up and down the high street and this video is a great way to remind them what Birmingham's creative quarter has to offer."

You can watch the video shortly on our social media channels.



How can I get further information?

It would really help us if you share this newsletter with your colleagues, customers or people you think would benefit from this progress update.

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)



Transport for
West Midlands



Midland
Metro Alliance

Eastside EDITION

ISSUE 11 DECEMBER 2022

Concrete poured for track installation

A significant concrete pour has taken place on Lower Bull Street as the team prepares for the first tracks to be laid in this section next year.

The concrete, which was delivered in seven loads equating to 52.5m³, will form a base for the rail and sleepers.

The activity in this area of the city centre has been running concurrently with the Metro works on Digbeth High Street and those living, working and visiting the area will start to see the works take real shape in the new year.

Maria Ion, Project Director, said: "The concrete pour marks a real step forward in the project and it is exciting that we will be ready for the first tracks to be laid over the coming months. I am sure that those in the area are also looking forward to seeing the continued progress in 2023."



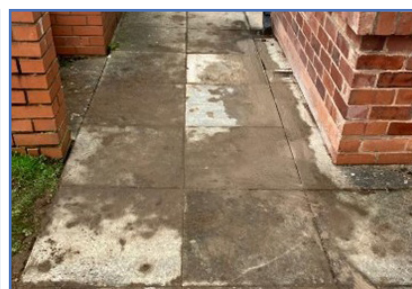
New paving laid for charity

Members of the construction team have supported a charity which houses young people who are or at risk of being homeless.

Operatives Richard Boyer, Jorge Sanchez and Alai Elosua gave up two days of their time to lay and replace paving slabs around one of St Basil's property grounds.

Their act of kindness has helped make the walking routes at the property safer to navigate and more accessible for residents.

The paving used for the activity was kindly provided by one of our suppliers, EH Smith Builders Merchants.



Maps installed to help visitors locate Digbeth's vibrant businesses

Wayfinding maps have been placed on fencing along Digbeth High Street to help pedestrians navigate the area during our works.

Visitors will be able to locate the area's vibrant venues more easily with 'you are here' stickers placed on each map to further assist with navigation.

The map, which highlights the position of each business with a handy key to help you find what you're looking for, is also available online at www.metroalliance.co.uk.

A stock will also soon be shared to key businesses, including venues such as the coach station, to benefit those entering the area.



How can I get further information?

It would really help us if you share this newsletter with your colleagues, customers or people you think would benefit from this progress update.

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:

[in](https://www.linkedin.com/company/midland-metro-alliance) company/midland-metro-alliance
[t](https://twitter.com/midlandtram) @midlandtram
[f](https://www.facebook.com/MidlandMetroAlliance) Midland Metro Alliance
[ig](https://www.instagram.com/midlandmetroalliance) @midlandmetroalliance



Transport for
West Midlands



Midland
Metro Alliance

Eastside EDITION

ISSUE 11 DECEMBER 2022

Residents and businesses attend information session

Residents and businesses got the chance to learn more about the progress of the scheme during an information session.

They attended the Stakeholder Engagement event at the Square Shopping Centre set up by our dedicated Stakeholder Liaison Officer for the route, Shervorne Brown.

Those living and working in the area were able to find out more about the upcoming activity that will be taking place in the city centre.

Shervorne said: "These events are a fantastic way for residents and businesses to talk to us face-to-face about the works that are currently underway and any activity that will be coming up in the coming months. As the works continue to ramp up it's important that we keep stakeholders informed each step of the way and it was great to see some new and familiar faces."

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, here: metroalliance.co.uk/projects/birmingham-eastsideextension/



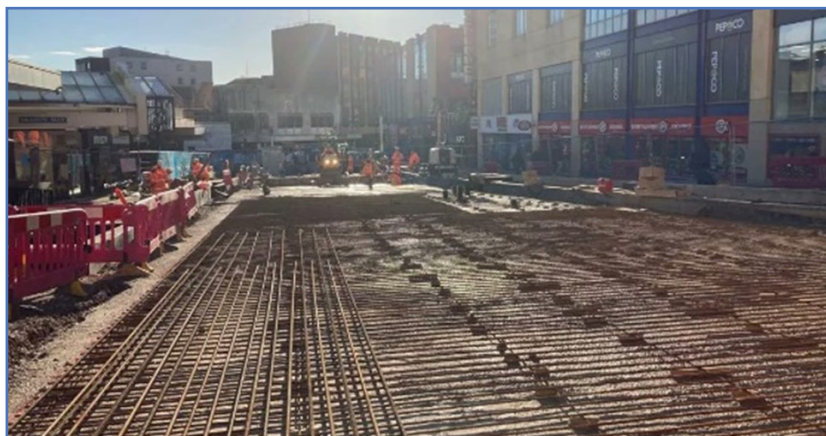
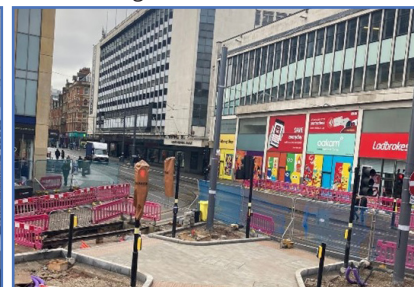
Recent progress

Lower Bull Street area

Further progress has been made on paving installation works on Corporation Street and Upper Bull Street as well as for the planters on Lower Bull Street.

Meanwhile, steel reinforcement has been installed along Lower Bull Street and concrete poured ahead of track installation.

Works to demolish Kings Parade on Dale End have also moved forward with the team working to remove non-structural elements inside the building before it is taken down.



Digbeth High Street

Site clearance to the coach station side of the high street has taken place following the completion of urban realm works on the opposite side and works to remove the existing highway section are now underway. Kerbing and paving works have also continued together with the installation of new street light columns.



How can I get further information?

It would really help us if you share this newsletter with your colleagues, customers or people you think would benefit from this progress update.

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)



Transport for
West Midlands



Midland
Metro Alliance

Eastside EDITION

ISSUE 11 DECEMBER 2022

Students Ben and Charanjeet mark T-Levels Week

Earlier in the autumn, to mark T-Levels week, we caught up with students Ben Hawkins and Charanjeet Singh who have been working on our live projects, including the Birmingham Eastside Metro extension.

The pair helped the MMA mark T-Levels Week by going back to their school, Thomas Telford University Technical College (TTUTC), for a careers event. They informed prospective students and parents about the benefits of these qualifications, which combine study with real-life work experience.

Since joining the MMA earlier in the spring, Ben has been learning the ropes within our commercial team working on the route to Dudley town centre whilst Charanjeet developed his skills working on the Eastside project before settling in to support our sustainability team working across the West Midlands.

Laura Fletcher, Director of Careers at TTUTC, said: "Rose and the team at Midland Metro Alliance go above and beyond to support our students here at Thomas Telford UTC. Our partnership over the years has grown to include opportunities for our students. This includes student mentoring, work experience, guest lectures and now our T Levels placements. This support is invaluable for our students development, social and employability skills. We hope that this partnership will continue to grow and our students will become part of the MMA alumni team."



Eastside Edition will be back in 2023

This is the final issue of our stakeholder newsletter for 2022. Thank you to all who have read, commented and shared our updates within their communities this year.

We look forward to keeping you updated on the progress of the Metro extension in 2023.

Wishing you all a happy festive season and all the best for the new year ahead.



Transport for
West Midlands

News from TfWM:

Retrofit skills bootcamps launched to help develop energy saving technologies and skills in the West Midlands

Hundreds of people are to undergo free specialist training so they have the skills needed to retrofit the latest energy saving technologies to upgrade thousands of homes across the region.

A number of Retrofit Bootcamps are being funded by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) to help equip existing engineers and others with the skills and knowledge to install green technologies such as heat pumps, solar panels and super-efficient insulation.

Not only will the bootcamps help people find work in the green industries of the future but the installation of retrofit products will help the West Midlands in its ambitious #WM2041 target to be a net zero region with the next two decades.

The first bootcamp, which has launched at Teach A Trade in partnership with Telford College, provides gas engineers heating engineers and plumbers the chance upskill and gain the essential qualification required to install, service and maintain air source heat pumps. Alongside the heat pump qualification participants will complete a level 2 mental health awareness course to raise awareness and provide the increase in mental health issues within the construction industry.

Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands, said: "As the home of Britain's Green Industrial Revolution, the West Midlands is set to create tens of thousands of jobs in the coming years as we work towards our #WM2041 plan to tackle the climate emergency. It is therefore absolutely critical that we get local people the skills they need to develop energy saving technologies as we move towards upgrading more and more homes across the region."

The fully accredited course is delivered at Teach A Trades' Halesfield-based training centre by industry experts with vast practical and theoretical knowledge. Successful completion of the course leads to an LCL awards level 3 in the installation and maintenance of heat pump systems.



How can I get further information?

It would really help us if you share this newsletter with your colleagues, customers or people you think would benefit from this progress update.

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)