



Transport for
West Midlands



Midland
Metro Alliance

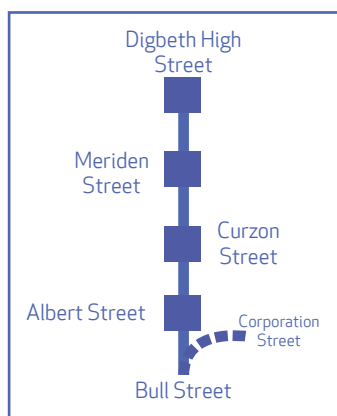
Eastside EDITION

ISSUE 19 | 24 MAY 2024

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

Construction entered a new phase as works got underway along Moor Street Queensway, which involved changes to some bus services

We exceeded our 2023 carbon reduction target by more than 300 tonnes.

We celebrated a safety milestone after reaching two million working hours without a single accident that resulted in a staff member losing time away due to an injury.

What you need to know

In our commitment to keeping you up to date on the progress of the project, this issue of Eastside Edition is packed with all the latest updates and information about the scheme. We've included a snapshot of everything you need to know below, but these are also covered in more detail throughout the newsletter, so, if you have a few spare minutes, then please continue to read on.

Moor Street Queensway, Park Street and Albert Street areas

- Construction is now underway along Moor Street Queensway and the team have made swift progress with the existing road surface removed, ongoing site clearance, ground levelling and drainage and ducting installation
- Albert Street will continue to be closed to vehicular traffic until the works are completed - which is anticipated to be in the autumn
- Taxi ranks in the area have been temporarily relocated to Corporation Street, opposite the Square Peg.
- In nearby Dale End, the first section of track has been laid on the Kings Parade site, see page [three](#) for more.

Digbeth High Street

- Our activity on the coach station side of the high street is nearing completion with the team currently finalising urban realm improvements including the installation of track paving and road lining.

You can read more about how construction is progressing on page [two](#), plus there are plenty more updates and interesting stories throughout the newsletter so do take the time to read on.

While we have made every effort to provide you with the most up-to-date information, our construction works are ever changing and I will continue to ensure that you are notified of any important changes.

Don't forget that our social media channels are also a great way to stay updated (details at the bottom of the page). We post about the Eastside, and our other projects, a number of times a week, so please, give us a follow if you haven't already.

If you do have any questions in the meantime or would like to find out more about how the project is progressing then please don't hesitate to get in touch with me on the details below.

Tom Bissell, Stakeholder Liaison Manager.



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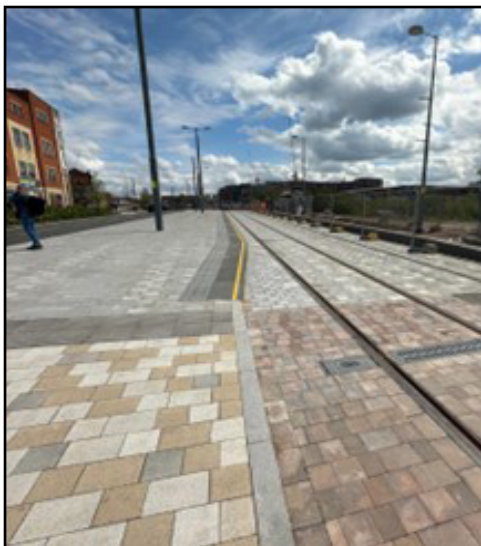
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Recent progress

Digbeth High Street

With main construction, including track laying, now completed, urban realm improvements have continued along the high street with new track paving installed between Rea Street and River Rea as well as new road lining on Gibb Street and Rea Street. Meanwhile, sign posts and signs are expected to be installed in the coming weeks.



Moor Street Queensway

It's been a busy month for our Eastside team with the new phase of activity underway in Moor Street Queensway.

Following traffic management being installed, the construction team removed the road surface. The section has also been cleared of lighting columns, bus shelters, paving and street furniture. Works to install ducting and upgrade and extend the utilities in the area have also commenced.

Albert Street will continue to be closed to vehicular traffic until the works are completed - which is anticipated to be in the autumn.



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Milestone celebrated as first section of track installed in Dale End

Works to extend tram tracks laid in Lower Bull Street through to Albert Street have taken a major step forward with the first section of track installed in the Dale End area of the city centre.

A total of 18 metres of double track has been installed on the Kings Parade site as progress on the highly-anticipated project continues to move forward at pace. It follows a recent successful concrete pour for the base of the rail.

This latest progress on the project is the first significant milestone to be celebrated at the Kings Parade site following the successful demolition of the building in 2023.

The recent activity will enable track laid in nearby Lower Bull Street to be extended further as it eventually makes its way through Albert Street.



"It's great to mark another major milestone for this project and I am thrilled to see track now installed on Kings Parade. The team continue to work extremely hard to deliver this extension and I am sure that those in the area will be excited to see the continued progress."

Maria Ion, Project Director

Team take on new heights as they tackle Yorkshire Three Peaks

Members of the Birmingham Eastside Team swapped the second city for the north as they embarked on the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge for charity.

The adventurers scaled the heights of Pen-y-Ghent, Wharfedale and Ingleborough, totalling more than 2,000 metres, in just 12 hours.

Their efforts raised more than £600 for the Railway Children, which helps change the lives of vulnerable children at risk of life on the streets in India, Tanzania and the UK.

A spokesperson for the charity, which received a fundraising total of £52,000 on the day, said: "On behalf of the entire team at Railway Children, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you for participating in the Yorkshire Three Peaks event. Your enthusiasm, determination, and camaraderie made it a truly special and memorable day. It was so inspiring to see you push yourself through the challenges of the day whilst supporting each other along the way."



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Earth Saving Rules shared to mark World Environment Day

In a nod to this year's World Environment Day theme of land restoration, desertification and drought resilience, the alliance introduced Earth Saving Rules across its sites, which are closely aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

The rules, including protecting 'Life on Land' and 'Life Below Water', have been applied to day-to-day activities as part of the alliance's ongoing sustainability workstream with construction and design processes at the alliance amended to take into account the UN's important guidance.

Activities include working with supply chain partners to ensure goods used on the Metro development are as green as possible, whilst using closer suppliers wherever possible to reduce carbon from shipping.

Midland Metro Alliance celebrates exceeding carbon savings target in commitment to improving the environment

The Midland Metro Alliance is announcing progress towards its ambitious goal to significantly reduce carbon footprint while building tram extensions across the region as it prepares to celebrate World Environment Day.

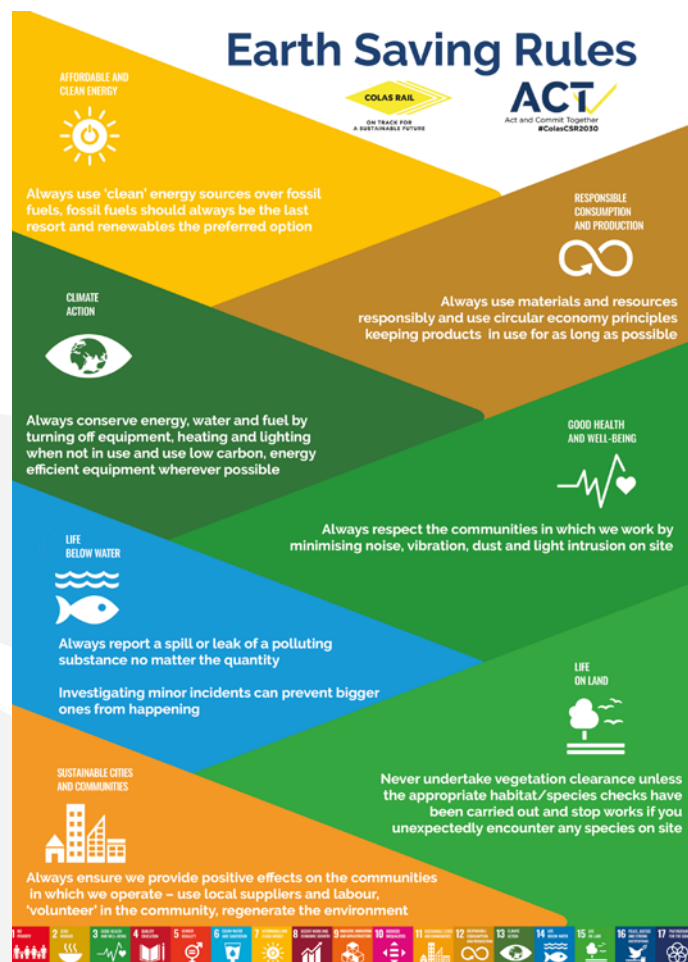
Ahead of the international campaign, which will be held on 05 June, the alliance, working on behalf of Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), is highlighting its longstanding commitment to helping protect the environment and maintain biodiversity during construction activities.

Its efforts have led to the team exceeding its carbon reduction target for 2023 by more than 300 tonnes; making a carbon saving of 3,389 tCO₂e, which is the equivalent of more than 400 million smartphones charged.

This has been achieved by implementing a number of sustainable initiatives including the use of renewable fuels to power all sites and machinery, the introduction of eco welfare site cabins and the addition of 48 solar energy towers to light its compounds and power the cabins.

It is not just the construction activity where the alliance is helping to improve the environment as the planting of new greenery, including trees, plants and shrubs, along Digbeth High Street and Lower Bull Street have also contributed to a greener Birmingham.

As part of its carbon reducing commitments, the alliance has cut down its use of single-use plastic bottles as well as installing drainage pipes made from recycled bottles, helping take action against plastic waste and pollution.



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Staff dig deep to support young homeless in Digbeth

Generous alliance staff joined forces to help collect dozens of essential items for a young homelessness charity.

They donated essentials including food, toiletries and kitchenware to St Basils, which supports young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

St Basils is one of the alliance's chosen charities and staff also made a similar donation to the charity, which has a hub in Heath Mill Lane, in December.

Louise O'Gorman, Office Administrator at the alliance, who helped organise the donation, said: "St Basils does such important work for vulnerable young people and we are proud to be able to support them in this way."



Students to take part in innovative testing and commissioning project

Engineering students have been enlisted to take part in an exciting design project to develop an inspection vehicle that will help streamline the alliance's testing and commissioning (t&c) process.

Birmingham City University and Dudley's Institute of Technology have signed up to take part in the innovative project, which will see students develop a rail-road quad vehicle that will be used to carry out daily inspections during the testing and commissioning phase of the Metro extension projects. They will be involved in the design, construction and integration of the tool with support from the alliance's t&c team.

"This innovative quad will be meticulously designed to effortlessly navigate diverse terrains. It will be equipped with a range of sophisticated inspection tools, enabling detailed assessments of various components. The quad will play a pivotal role in conducting inspections, ensuring the precise positioning of essential signaling equipment on the tracks."

Wahiba Erriadi, Systems Graduate Engineer



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Birmingham Eastside site shows Pride!

Ahead of Pride Month beginning in June, and just in time for the city of Birmingham's annual pride celebrations this weekend, the Birmingham Eastside team added a splash of colour to the Moor Street Queensway worksite as it was dressed in rainbow colours in a specially designed mesh.

The area, a massive transport hub for bus and rail services, was buzzing with visitors entering the city for the two-day LGBTQIA+ festival so it was the perfect opportunity to highlight that, for the MMA and its partners, everyone is welcome.

"Signals of acceptance are really important for so many LGBTQIA+ people - especially in underrepresented sectors like construction. It is great that the MMA continues to publicly demonstrate that they believe everyone is equal and accepted".

Antony Lowbridge-Ellis, Head of Communications, who will be representing the MMA in this year's parade on the West Midlands Combined Authority's pride bus



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Afternoon tea, anyone?

In our commitment to supporting the local businesses and communities in which we are working, the alliance's Project Sponsor chose the Clayton Hotel as the perfect spot to enjoy afternoon tea during a birthday celebration.

Birmingham has its pick of eateries but with the Clayton Hotel located in close proximity of our construction activities along Moor Street Queensway, Nicky Haigh decided to kill two birds with one stone - supporting a local business while celebrating a friend's milestone birthday.

Afternoon tea is served up at the hotel everyday, and the group tucked into treats including finger sandwiches, mini baguettes as well as scones served with jam and clotted cream.



"Such an important part of our work is about making a positive social impact within the local communities in which we are working, and helping support local businesses is a key part of that. We had our pick of places to enjoy afternoon tea in the city but with the hotel on the doorstep of our construction activity I really wanted to take the opportunity to show some support."

Nicky Haigh



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Artistic nine-year-old wins Metro's 25th anniversary design comp

West Midlands Metro would like to congratulate Pargunn Kaur Birring who scooped the top prize in a design competition as part of its 25th anniversary celebrations.

Children from across the region were asked to come up with a design for an emblem to help mark the occasion, with nine-year-old Pargunn's design chosen as the overall winner.

With well over 200 entries, the design competition has proved a huge success, and judges from the Metro leadership team had an almost impossible task of choosing the winning entry.

Sophie Allison, Metro's Managing Director, explained: "The quality of the submissions was fantastic, and they reflected the artistic talent to be found across the region. But, in the end, there could only be one winner and I am delighted to be welcoming Pargunn to our Wednesbury depot over the next few weeks."

Pargunn and her classmates from Wattville Primary School in Birmingham, will be treated to a guided tour of the depot, with the school also receiving a cheque for £500.

Meanwhile, her winning design will be displayed on the side of a tram and Metro merchandise as the network marks its historic anniversary on May 30.

Congratulations Pargunn and Wattville Primary School!



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