



Transport for
West Midlands



Midland
Metro Alliance

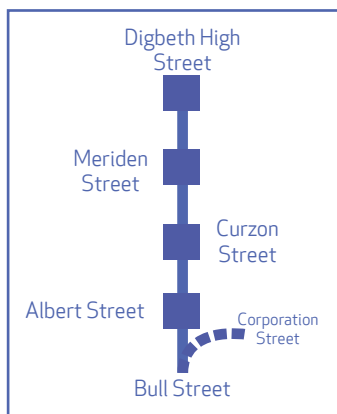
Eastside EDITION

ISSUE 20 | 12 JULY 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

The first section of track was installed in Dale End.

The road surface was completely removed on Moor Street Queensway following the start of construction.

We marked World Environment Day by celebrating our carbon savings.

What you need to know

There's loads to catch you up on since the last issue of Eastside Edition all of which are covered throughout this edition of the newsletter. Short on time? we've got you covered with a quick run-down of all the important stuff you need to know, below. If you would like more detail, keep reading; everything is covered more thoroughly further in the newsletter.

Moor Street Queensway, Park Street and Albert Street areas

- Progress has been ongoing along Moor Street Queensway with the team focused on ground preparation works ready for the track to be installed over the coming months. Activities to upgrade the utilities in the area and install ducting have also taken place.
- The Queensway, and nearby 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 remain temporarily located on Corporation Street, opposite the Square Peg.
- In nearby Dale End, more track has been installed, edging closer into the Kings Parade site.

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 sign posts and signs.

With our works on Digbeth High Street now in the final stages and activities on Moor Street Queensway recently underway, there are so many important milestones ahead.

As always, we are committed to keeping you updated, and I am just an email away if you have any questions about the work.

You can see all of the latest construction progress on pages **two** and **three**; and that's not all, as there's plenty more updates covered throughout this edition.

Make sure you're following us on social media (along with email contact details, our social media channels are listed at the bottom of the page) We regularly post about the Eastside project on X, Facebook and Instagram, so don't forget to give us a follow if you haven't already.

I'll continue to keep you informed of any important changes, but don't hesitate to contact me in the meantime.

Tom Bissell, Stakeholder Liaison Manager.



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:

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

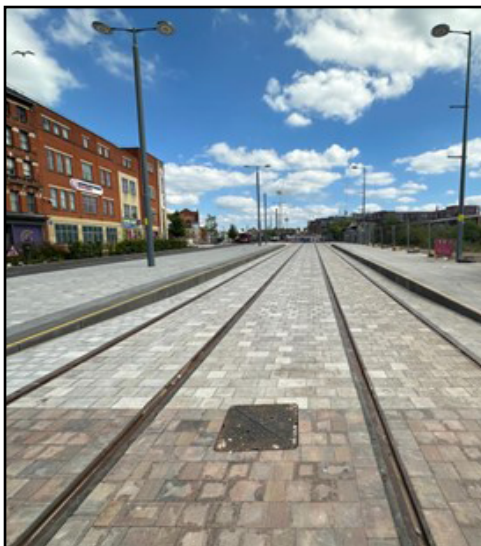
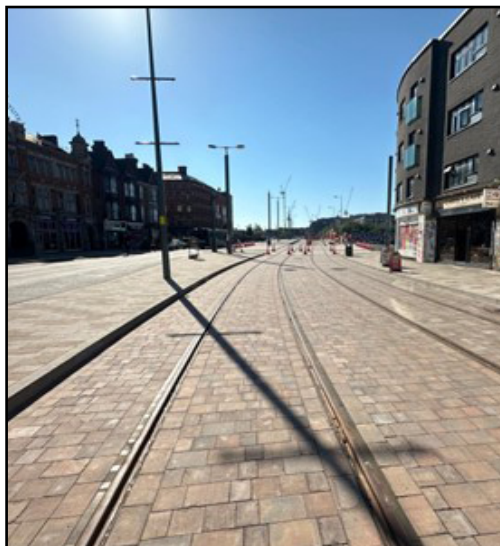
ISSUE 20 | 12 JULY 2024

Recent progress

Digbeth High Street

This area has really taken shape over recent weeks following the completion of main construction activity.

The tram stop kerbs, including tactile paving installation, have now been completed with sign posts and signs also in place along Digbeth High Street as part of finishing activities.



Moor Street Queensway

The team have been busy carrying out works to upgrade and divert the utilities in the area, while ducting and kerbing is also being installed in this section of the route.

Meanwhile, preparatory works are underway, including ground levelling, ahead of track being installed here.



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 company/midland-metro-alliance](https://www.linkedin.com/company/midland-metro-alliance)
[f @midlandtram](https://www.facebook.com/midlandmetro)
[i Midland Metro Alliance](https://www.instagram.com/midlandmetroalliance)
[6 @midlandmetroalliance](https://www.tiktok.com/@midlandmetroalliance)



Transport for
West Midlands



Midland
Metro Alliance

Eastside EDITION

ISSUE 20 | 12 JULY 2024

Recent progress

Dale End

More progress has been made on the installation of kerbing and ducting, while further ground levelling works have continued in preparation for the recently installed track to be extended further into Moor Street Queensway.

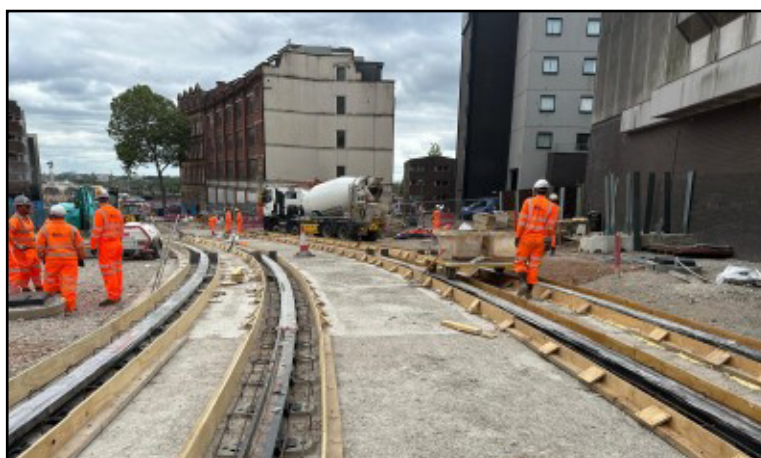


Project stays on the right track

Significant track progress in the Dale End area of the city centre has been made since our last issue with more than 70 meters of rail now in place.

The works to extend the tram tracks laid in Lower Bull Street through to Albert Street got underway in May. Since then, a total of 72 meters of double track has been installed as the light rail project continues to move forward at pace.

Track activities on the Kings Parade site are nearly halfway complete and in the coming weeks, the rail will be extended further into Albert Street and Moor Street Queensway.



"It is great to see track progress continuing in Dale End and we are looking forward to the rail being extended further as we make our way closer into Moor Street Queensway."

Maria Ion, Project Director



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 20 | 12 JULY 2024

Committed to making our workplace as safe as it can be

Construction works are ever-changing and to ensure our staff remain safe during last-minute and unforeseen circumstances we focused our annual Safety Week initiative on this important topic.

The event featured a variety of information sessions, interactive workshops and activities designed to enhance the construction team's understanding of the management of risk.

Sessions were held at our Oxford Street compound with staff actively sharing their thoughts and experiences in line with the theme. The activities not only educated but also empowered everyone to better understand the change process that we all experience at times.



Birmingham Eastside site decked out in vibrant colours to celebrate Pride

Rainbows were visible along Moor Street Queensway as the construction site fencing was dressed in specially designed mesh to celebrate Pride.

The team ensured that the area was adorned in Pride colours to demonstrate its support during Pride Month and the city's annual parade.

The MMA dresses its Birmingham sites for the Pride celebrations each year in a bid to highlight that everyone is welcome.

The pride designs received a positive response online with appreciative comments shared in the LinkedIn LGBTQ Professionals Network from occupations ranging from roofing to policing and HR to finance.



"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



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 20 | 12 JULY 2024

Berry nice! Green-fingered staff celebrate jam-packed strawberry crop

Our construction team has been seeing red for all the right reasons.

They've been harvesting the fruits of their labour with the success of their strawberry crop which has yielded its first fruits.

The team planted the fruit as part of an "urban garden" at our Oxford Street compound earlier this year and are 'berry' delighted with the results.



"As well as being extremely rewarding, growing your own fruit and veg is a great way to be more sustainable. One of the biggest benefits being the reduction in waste, while it also reduces food miles. We've made a long-standing promise to help protect the environment during construction activities and it's great to see our Birmingham Eastside team benefitting from their first fruits while helping protect the environment."

Julian Nartey, Sustainability Advisor

MMA's Head of Engagement and Skills awarded MBE in King's Birthday Honours list

The MMA's Head of Engagement and Skills has been honoured for her dedication and contribution to diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

Rose Rees has been recognised for her tireless work in striving to help ensure the construction industry is accessible to all, particularly young people, after becoming the recipient of an MBE in King Charles's Birthday Honours.

Rose, who feels "humbled" by the prestigious recognition, said she was "highly honoured" to receive the letter from the Cabinet Office.

"It was a total shock, I'm a bit overwhelmed but very honoured... [My] dad helped people all his life and was a great role model... That's all I try to do - help others. I'm very grateful to those who worked so hard behind the scenes on the nomination."

Rose Rees, Head of Engagement and Skills



Milestone achieved as first ticket machines unveiled by West Midlands Metro

The public have been given their first glimpse at the new way they will be able to buy Metro tickets from the autumn.

New state-of-the-art ticket machines have been installed at tram stops as part of the Buy Before You Board project.

The machines will allow Metro customers to purchase tickets and top up their Swift cards at tram stops, within the next five weeks.

Customers will be able to pay or top up by using cash, chip and pin and contactless when the machines go live later in the autumn across line one and the extensions already opened by the MMA.

If you use the Metro, look for regular updates on the roll-out of this project at www.westmidlandsmetro.com.



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 20 | 12 JULY 2024



Transport for
West Midlands

Mayor launches flagship plan for youth unemployment in the West Midlands - to create 20,000 learning and work opportunities

Working with local business to open up 20,000 work experience placements, training opportunities and apprenticeships training is just one of the key parts of the flagship youth employment plan launched by Mayor of the West Midlands, Richard Parker.

The Mayor shared this first phase of his plan on a regional level to align with national government's youth guarantee, at the Learning and Work Institutes' Employment and Skills Convention held at Eastside Rooms, Birmingham.

Rising youth unemployment is a national issue, but in the West Midlands it is double the national average in some areas such as Walsall, Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

Time spent out of work under 23 is linked to lower wages and higher unemployment even 20 years on. Being out of work can also have a detrimental impact on health and, increasing the likelihood of taking up smoking, becoming obese or abusing alcohol, which in turn can impact on the chances of finding and staying in work.

The initial phase of the West Midlands youth employment plan sets out the offer to young people to ensure they have the best possible start to their working lives through meaningful advice, support services and pathways, in addition to a commitment to creating 20,000 new work experience, training placements and apprenticeships by working with partners and businesses across the region.

The offer will also include:

- Pre-employment training in the region's fastest growing sectors and green skills, with a guaranteed interview, like the Path 2 Apprenticeship programme underway
- Dedicated work coach support for young people who are out of work
- Fully-funded training, up to level 3, to help young people develop the skills needed for work
- Access to mental and physical health support, including talking therapies.
- Building on existing youth hubs to provide all young people with access to a range of support and services, including debt and careers advice.



"It was the West Midlands that offered me my greatest chance to get on in life when aged 16 I left school, unsure of my future. I want the West Midlands to be the region that gives young people the best possible start in life, with good quality jobs, the support they need to feel ready for work and the ability to progress in their careers – this is why we are launching the initial phase of our West Midlands youth plan – our regional approach to delivering the national government's youth guarantee. This plan will focus on skills and employment and will include work coach support, pre-employment training in growing sectors with a guaranteed interview, as well as fully funded training up to level three and access to debt and careers advice. I call upon businesses and learning providers in the region to continue their work with us to open up a further 20,000 new training or work placements. Let's work together to make the West Midlands a model for the nation by investing in our youth and therefore investing in our future. We are already supporting young unemployed people to get into apprenticeships with our Path 2 Apprenticeship programme in which we have invested £7.5m to support 3,300 young people over three years."

Richard Parker, Mayor of the West Midlands



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)