



Transport for
West Midlands



Midland
Metro Alliance

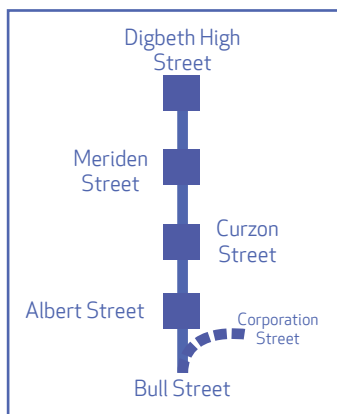
Eastside EDITION

ISSUE 21 | SEPTEMBER 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

We celebrated the first section of track being installed on Moor Street Queensway

Our site was decked out in vibrant colours to mark Pride

The Eastside team showed their commitment to sustainability with their first strawberry crop

! What you need to know

Our Birmingham Eastside team have been extremely busy since the last issue of Eastside Edition so keep reading as we have some exciting progress to share with you throughout the newsletter. If you're short on time, here's a snapshot of the important stuff you need to know.

Moor Street Queensway, Park Street and Albert Street areas

- Our current phase of works along Moor Street Queensway will be completed next week with rail now installed from Lower Bull Street, through Dale End and Albert Street
- Some bus stops will return to the dual carriageway from Sunday 29 September. Passengers will need to check with their operator for changes to individual services. (See page **four** for more details)
- Albert Street will continue to be closed to vehicular traffic until later in the winter.
- Taxi ranks in the area remain temporarily located on Corporation Street, opposite the Square Peg.

Digbeth High Street

- The team has a small presence on Digbeth High Street to complete finishing activities on the coach station side. These works are almost complete with sign posts and signs set to be installed in the coming months.

There's been lots of progress on the project in recent weeks and the extension is really taking shape; you can get a glimpse of how it's looking in our latest drone footage on page **three**.

I'm sure that some of you may have questions about how these works are progressing and I am just an email away if you want to have a chat in more detail.

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

Never miss an update by clicking the 'follow' button on our social media channels - X, Facebook and Instagram - where we regularly post about the Eastside project and much more.

I'll be in touch with any important changes but don't hesitate to contact me in the meantime.

Tom Bissell, Stakeholder Liaison Manager.



How can I get further information?

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Recent progress

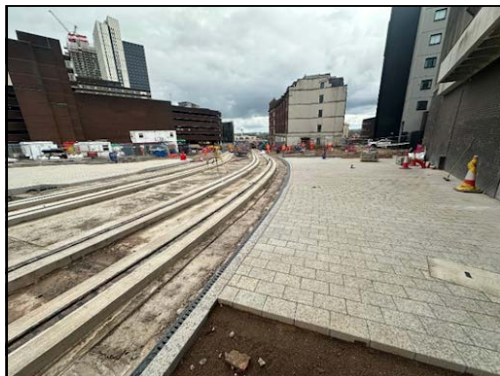
Kerbing has been installed and concrete poured to the central reservation on Moor Street Queensway



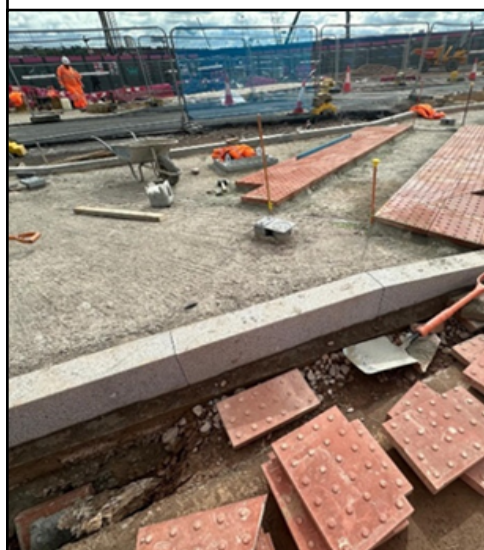
Tram stop foundations are starting to take shape at the Kings Parade site with the steel work now installed



The team have continued to make progress on paving works in Dale End



Ongoing works have taken place to install crossings and paving in Moor Street Queensway



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Metro construction nears completion along Moor Street Queensway

Work in Birmingham city centre that will allow for a phased opening of the Eastside Metro extension is nearing completion following the successful installation of track along Moor Street Queensway.

Rail is now in place from Lower Bull Street, through Dale End and into the dual carriageway after construction activity got underway on this section of the route in April.

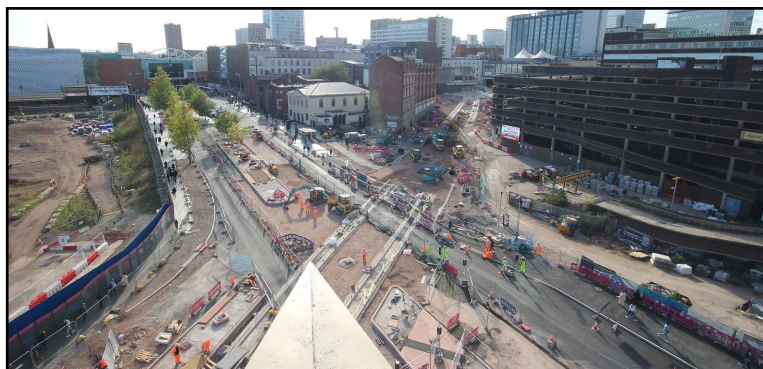
This latest significant milestone means that some bus stops along Moor Street Queensway will again be able to be used by passengers.

Buses were diverted from Moor Street Queensway to nearby locations in the city centre during the works and passengers are being advised to check with their operator for information on individual services.

We will still have a presence in the area to carry out finishing activities including street scene improvements. Preliminary works will also continue behind the fencing to further extend the track to a temporary stop outside the Clayton Hotel.

"We are all extremely delighted to have reached this key stage of construction along Moor Street Queensway. I would like to thank all the businesses, residents and bus passengers for their patience while the construction was taking place."

Maria Ion, Project Director



"I want to see the extension up and running as soon as possible – once open it will revolutionise the way people move around the city centre with fast, reliable and affordable tram services and direct links to railway stations and bus services. The works around Albert Street and Dale End are nearly finished which I know will come as a great relief to businesses and people in the area."

Richard Parker, Mayor of the West Midlands

Sky's the limit as drone footage captures Eastside route

Buckle up and get ready to take off across the Birmingham Eastside extension in footage that takes the project to new heights.

Fascinating drone footage has been captured which takes you on a journey from Lower Bull Street to Digbeth High Street.

The video, released by the Midland Metro Alliance, shows how construction has transformed the east of the city with new paving, street furniture and greenery complementing the infrastructure delivery.

Check out the footage by clicking the image to the right, or by visiting our social media.



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New traffic regulation orders

New Traffic Regulation Orders and provisions for West Midlands Metro will be introduced in the Eastside area of Birmingham as part of the Metro extension.

These measures replace the current Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders.

What does this mean for you?

You will see new road signage and traffic markings which will change driving and pedestrian routes.

Residents and businesses are set to receive a letter outlining the new traffic order, while our stakeholder Liaison Manager will be providing information shortly.

If you have any questions about these, or the order itself, please email tro@tfwm.org.uk.

Eastside project scores big in Considerate Constructors audit

The Birmingham Eastside team are celebrating after being awarded an 'excellent' rating from the Considerate Constructors Scheme.

Following a recent inspection, the project scored high marks for its respect to the community, care for the environment and support for the workforce, allowing the team to pick up a score of 44 out of 45.

The inspectors were particularly impressed with the policies and processes that have been implemented to reduce the impact to the public and 'create a positive experience', with further recognition given for how local stakeholders are kept informed via advanced notices, website updates and the bi-monthly Eastside Edition newsletter.

The report also commended the team's environmental efforts including its commitment to protecting and enhancing the natural environment.



"Well done to all those who have worked extremely hard behind the scenes to allow us to achieve this status. It has been a huge team effort from the project, sustainability, engagement and health and safety disciplines. This excellent rating shows just how committed we are to reducing our negative impact on the community and the environment."

Hamish Falconer, Project Manager



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Not one, not two, not three, not four...

We're up for five categories in this year's prestigious Global Light Rail Awards!

Among the successful nominations are our significant safety initiatives, which ensure we all go home safely at the end of each day, while our colleagues Revathi Muthukumaravel (Cost Engineer) and Grace Falconer (Site Agent) have been chosen for the Employee of the Year and Rising Star categories.

It doesn't end there as we're also in the running for Outstanding Engineering Achievement and Vision of the Year for our efforts to preserve local heritage.



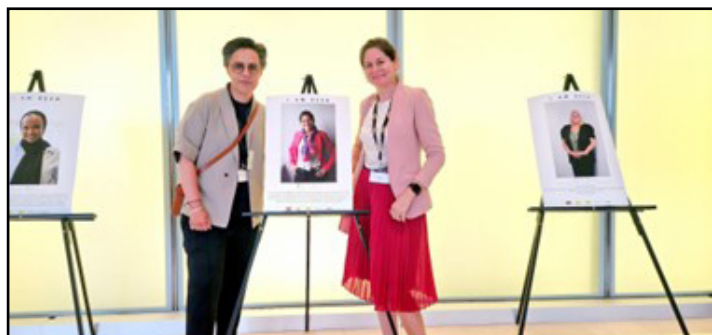
Staff feast with pride to mark South Asian Heritage Month

Our team celebrated South Asian culture with a glorious feast of mouth watering flavours at our Oxford Street compound.

Staff tucked into biryani, samosas, pakoras, sweets and snacks to launch a month of honouring British Asian heritage.

The special initiative, held in July, aims to deepen Britain's understanding of South Asian culture and its contribution to British society.

Staff also tapped into their creative sides by making traditional, as well as their own unique, rangoli patterns and designs.



Changing the face of how people see our industry...one portrait at a time

A number of MMA colleagues had the pleasure of attending the launch of a photography exhibition in London.

The event, called "I Am Seen", showcased a captivating collection of portraits of women who are transforming the fields of engineering and construction.

Our very own Project Director, Maria Ion, was among the inspiring individuals who were featured in the groundbreaking exhibit with Maria's portrait chosen to be revealed at the London launch.

The aim of the exhibition is to challenge stereotypes and pave the way for future generations of female professionals. Each portrait captures the model's strength, determination, and passion for their work.



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Mayor makes clean air pledge as new pollution monitoring system is set up

Work is underway to install a new network of sensors to significantly increase air quality monitoring outside homes, schools, hospitals and sports centres.

Later this year, near-live data from the sensors will be made publicly available online by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) so people can see for themselves just how clean the air in their neighbourhood actually is.

The 90 sensors will provide the first region-wide monitoring of microscopic particles given off by things like wood burners, vehicle tyres and factories. These tiny particulates can exacerbate long term health conditions, including asthma, coronary heart disease, stroke, and lung cancer.

Accessing this data will give local people a greater insight into pollution levels in their area so they can better understand the sources of pollution and take their own actions to improve their health and quality of life.

Each year in the West Midlands, around 2,300 people die early due to long term exposure to air pollution.

Richard Parker, Mayor of the West Midlands, said: "On my first day as Mayor, I met a group of schoolchildren who made a powerful case for more action to tackle air pollution to improve their health and protect their futures. These new sensors are just the latest tool in our fight against pollution and will give our communities real-world information about the quality of the air they are breathing. That information will also tell them the main sources of pollution in their area and what they can do to improve air quality."



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