

Working in partnership with:



20 May 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Five Ways underpass closing to all traffic from Monday 3 June 2019

I am writing on behalf of Midland Metro Alliance, in partnership with Transport for West Midlands and Birmingham City Council, to inform you that, as you may have seen in the local media recently, Five Ways underpass will close to all traffic from Monday 3 June 2019 to allow for the next phase of the Birmingham Westside Metro extension to Edgbaston.

This letter details everything you, your colleagues, students and their families might need to know to help you all keep moving during the closure but if you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch, you will find my contact details at the end of this letter along with some useful links.

Please note, during construction, Five Ways roundabout, which runs above the underpass, will remain open in all directions to allow access in and out of Birmingham city centre and temporary traffic changes will be put in place to give bus passengers priority.

Later in summer 2019 there will be additional changes to Broad Street, which will remain open for business throughout the work.

Key travel advice:

- Plan ahead and leave more time for your journey: If you travel along Hagley Road, you'll need more time for your journey to take account of the closure at Five Ways underpass
- Use public transport wherever possible: This is to reduce congestion on key roads in and out of the city centre
- Travel off peak: Buses and roads will be quieter if you are able to travel 'off peak'. The busiest time to travel during weekdays is usually before 09:30 and after 15:30
- Think about your options: Five Ways roundabout remains open, but will be busier than normal so consider using Google Maps or SatNav to plan an alternative route
- Consider car sharing: Sharing your journey with friends, family or colleagues will reduce the amount of cars on the road
- If you work, speak with your employer about whether there is any flexibility in your hours
- And if you are an employer consider if there are times your team could avoid travelling altogether, such as working from home.

Benefits of the Metro extension:

- Fast and frequent services between Edgbaston and Birmingham New Street station with services up to every 6 minutes from 2021
- Step-free access to popular attractions including Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, the International Convention Centre and Symphony Hall
- For every £1 spent extending the Metro network, £1.70 will be generated for the local economy
- Powered by electricity, the Metro is a cleaner and greener way to travel around the city.

Where to find out more

For more information on the closure including details of how it may affect your journey by bus or car, such as advice on the best ways and times to travel, please visit www.networkwestmidlands.com/FiveWays where you can also sign up to our newsletter. If you represent a business in the area, further resources and information is available for you to download and share with your staff and customers at www.wmca.org.uk/5WaysToolkit.

Transport for West Midlands has a range of education resources for Key Stage 2,3,4 and 5 students available for free at www.networkwm.com/educationresources. Travel advice sessions can be arranged for students and staff by contacting the team at education@tfwm.org.uk.

If you have any additional questions regarding the Birmingham Westside Metro extension, or would like any materials in an alternative format, please do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing communications@metroalliance.co.uk or calling our offices, during office hours, on **0121 643 8729**.

Yours faithfully,

Lisa Zdravkovic
Stakeholder Liaison Manager

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