

29 July 2016

### **Metrolink services set to return to MediaCityUK**

Metrolink services from Deansgate-Castlefield to MediaCityUK are expected to return on Monday 1 August, subject to testing and commissioning of newly laid rails being completed successfully over the weekend.

Tram services have been suspended along the whole of the Eccles Metrolink line and replaced with buses since 26 June, when the essential rail replacement work began.

The Metrolink operator, MRDL, is [renewing sections of Eccles line rail](#), which is now 16 years old.

Passengers are advised to check the Metrolink website – [www.metrolink.co.uk](http://www.metrolink.co.uk) – and [@MCRMetroLink](#) Twitter feed before travelling for the latest service updates.

Further finishing works will be required around the tracks but are not expected to impact on services. The next phase of work, to upgrade sections of track between MediaCityUK and Eccles, is due for completion at the end of August, when the full line will re-open.

At the same time, [no trams are running through St Peter's Square](#) as the final works to build a new, much larger stop take place.

[A new video shows progress on the bigger, better St Peter's Square stop](#) – the first on the tram network to have trees planted on the platform – which will also reopen to the public at the end of August.

Work is being carried out simultaneously and over the quieter summer period to limit the impact on customers.

Replacement bus services and signed walking routes continue to offer good access to the city and key destinations along the Eccles line.

There will also be some changes to replacement bus services from 1 August and more information is available now at [www.transformationinformation.com/summer-changes](http://www.transformationinformation.com/summer-changes).

The following replacement bus services will run approximately every 10 minutes from Monday 1 August to end of August:

**X1: Piccadilly Station (Fairfield St) – Cornbrook (Chester Rd) – Trafford Bar – Cornbrook – Piccadilly Station (Fairfield St)**

- Monday to Friday. Between 7am – 9.30am and 3.30pm – 8pm.

**X2: Piccadilly Station (Fairfield St) – Deansgate-Castlefield – Cornbrook (Chester Road) – Trafford Bar (towards Eccles only) – Exchange Quay – Salford Quays – MediaCityUK – Harbour City – Broadway – Langworthy – Weaste – Ladywell – Eccles (circular)**

## X2 Operating hours

	Monday – Thursday	Friday and Saturday	Sunday & public hols
<b>To Eccles</b>	5.54am – 11.44pm	5.54am – 12.44am	6.54am – 10.44pm
<b>To Piccadilly</b>	5.50am – 11.40pm	5.50am – 12.40am	7.00am – 11.10pm

These buses are available to Metrolink customers with a valid printed, or mobile activated, ticket or pass. Tickets can be purchased from on-stop ticket machines in advance of boarding or via the [get me there](#) app (Google Play and Apple app stores).

Routes to the relevant bus stops will be signposted.

For more information on Metrolink transformation work please visit

[www.transformationinformation.co.uk](http://www.transformationinformation.co.uk), email [future.metrolink@tfgm.com](mailto:future.metrolink@tfgm.com) or call 0161 244 1555 (office hours).

## **ENDS**

Media contact: 0161 244 1055 or email [mediarelations@tfgm.com](mailto:mediarelations@tfgm.com)

## **Notes to Editors**

1. Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) is the transport delivery arm for Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and its Transport for Greater Manchester Committee (TfGMC).
2. TfGM oversees transport and travel across Greater Manchester, home of the UK's largest regional economy outside London and a diverse population of over 2.7 million people.
3. TfGM:
  - is responsible for delivering the Greater Manchester Transport Fund, a £1.5bn transport investment package which will drive economic growth and create 21,000 new jobs.
  - owns and manages the Metrolink network, which currently covers nearly 58 miles and has 93 stops across seven lines – hosting 33 million passenger journeys every year.
  - is delivering the Second City Metrolink Crossing – which is currently under construction in Manchester city centre – and is working on preparations for the new Trafford Park line.
  - is responsible for the bus priority package which is improving bus links between Leigh, Atherton, Salford, Middleton and Parris Wood and Manchester city centre.

- builds, maintains and staffs bus stations and interchanges, and installs and maintains 12,000 bus stops and 4,000 shelters in partnership with JCDecaux.
- works closely with 30+ bus operators to ensure high quality services in the right places.
- is a key partner in Rail North – calling for increased rail devolution for the north of England, and is working to prepare for HS2 and in the £1bn+ North of England programme.
- manages the road network and co-ordinates maintenance, investment and strategic modelling to keep traffic flowing, as well as installing and maintaining traffic signals.
- is overseeing an investment of more than £40m into cycle routes and facilities through the Cycle City programme, alongside a wide-ranging programme of cycling information, education and training.
- works with Job Centres, job-seekers and local businesses to encourage sustainable commuting.

4. For more information, visit [www.tfgm.com](http://www.tfgm.com).