

Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro Extension Delivery Update

Dudley Select Committee

January 2024

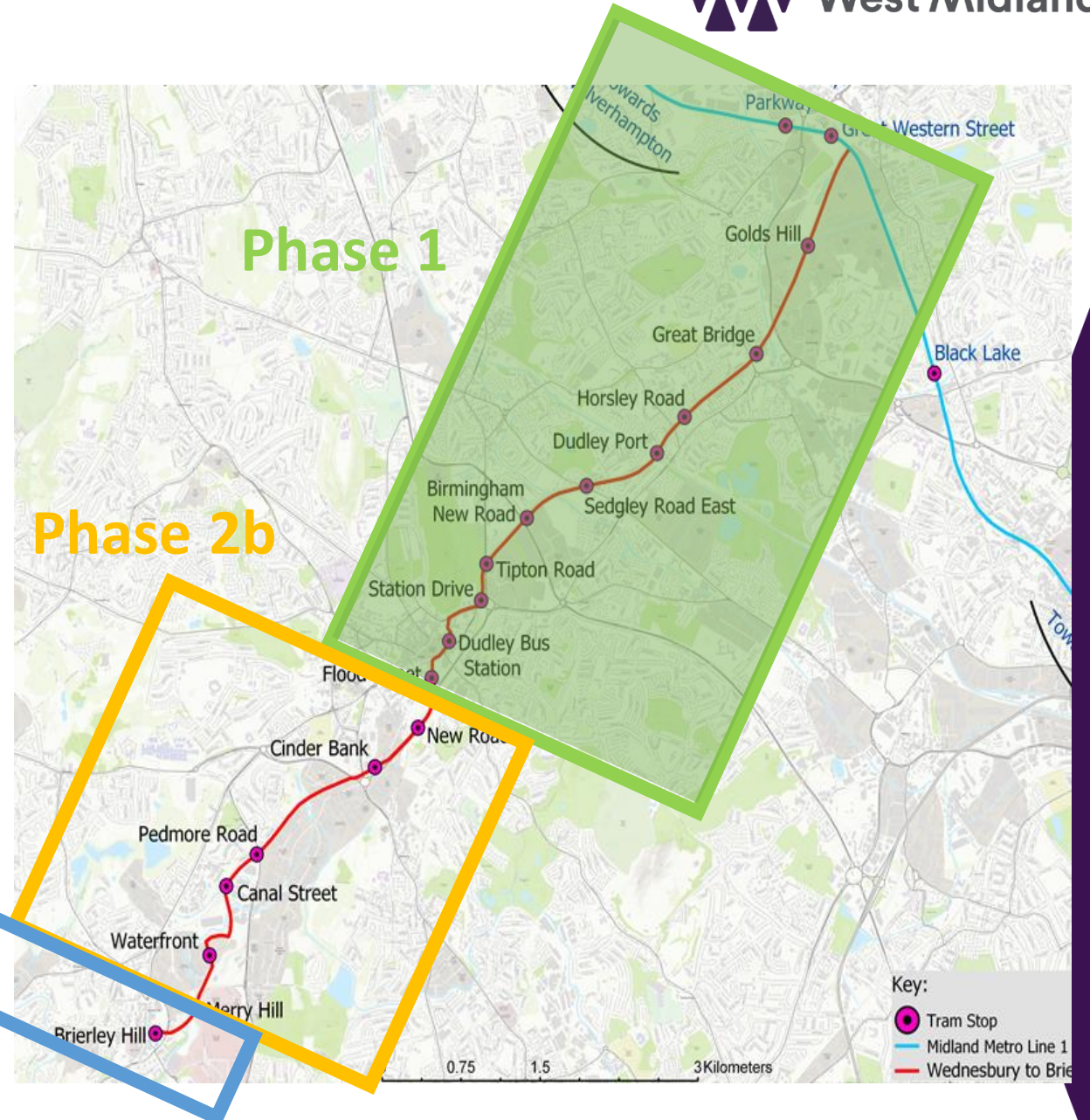
Phase 1 : Construction

Construction complete at the end of 2024

Entry into service will commence after that which includes:

- Technical sign off
- Driver training
- Safety assessments

Phase 2c



Phase 2

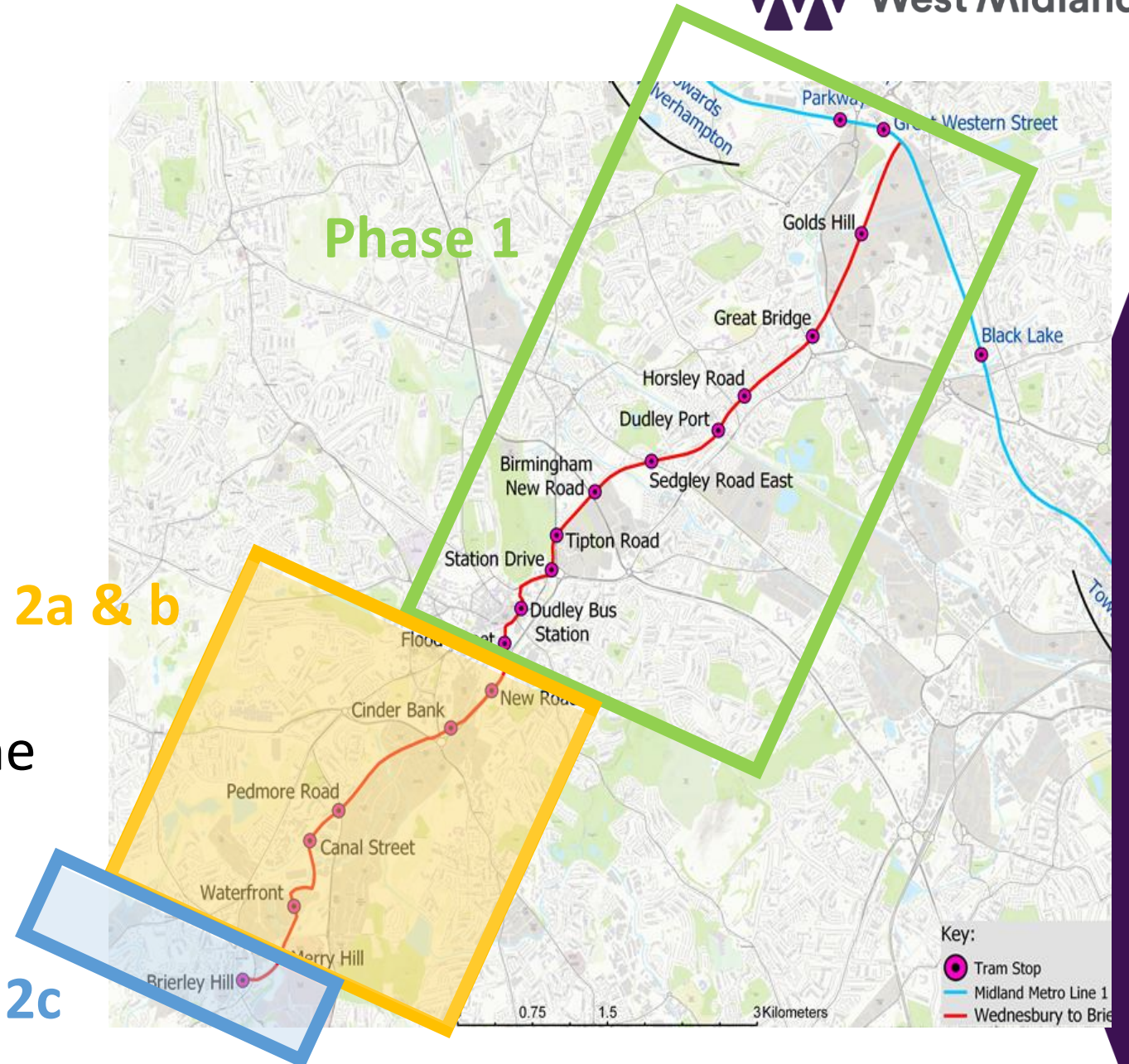
Phase 2 has been split into the following:

- 2a to Waterfront
- 2b to Merry Hill
- 2c to Brierley Hill

Work underway on refreshing the business case

Phase 2a & b

Phase 2c



There are a number of risks which could delay the entry into service:

- Canal bridge ownership needs to be resolved with Network Rail
- Mineshafts at Birmingham New Road
- Delta junction tie in works additional scope
- Lift at Dudley Port

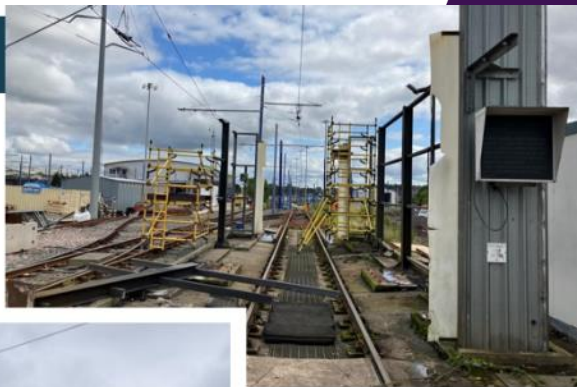
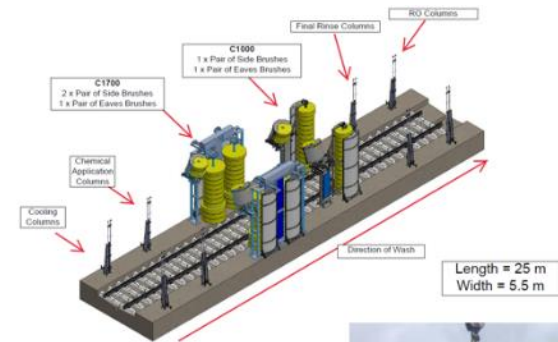
These are being worked through with the MMA, TfWM and DMBC

Wednesbury Depot Expansion

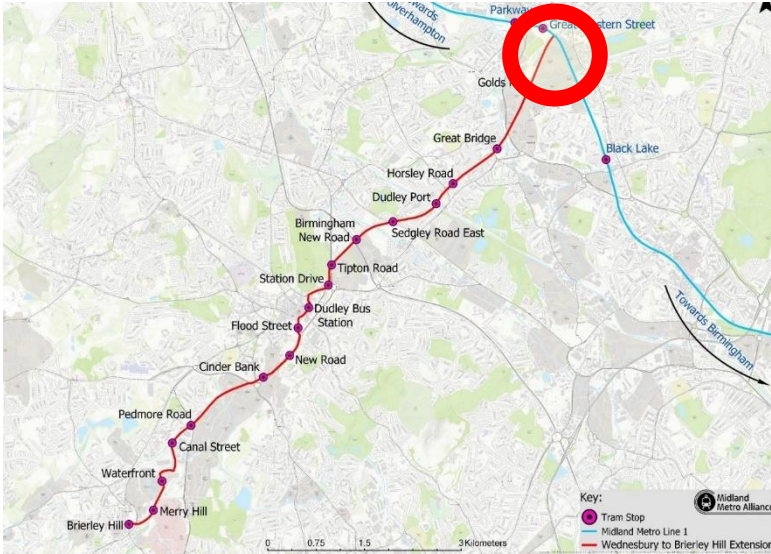
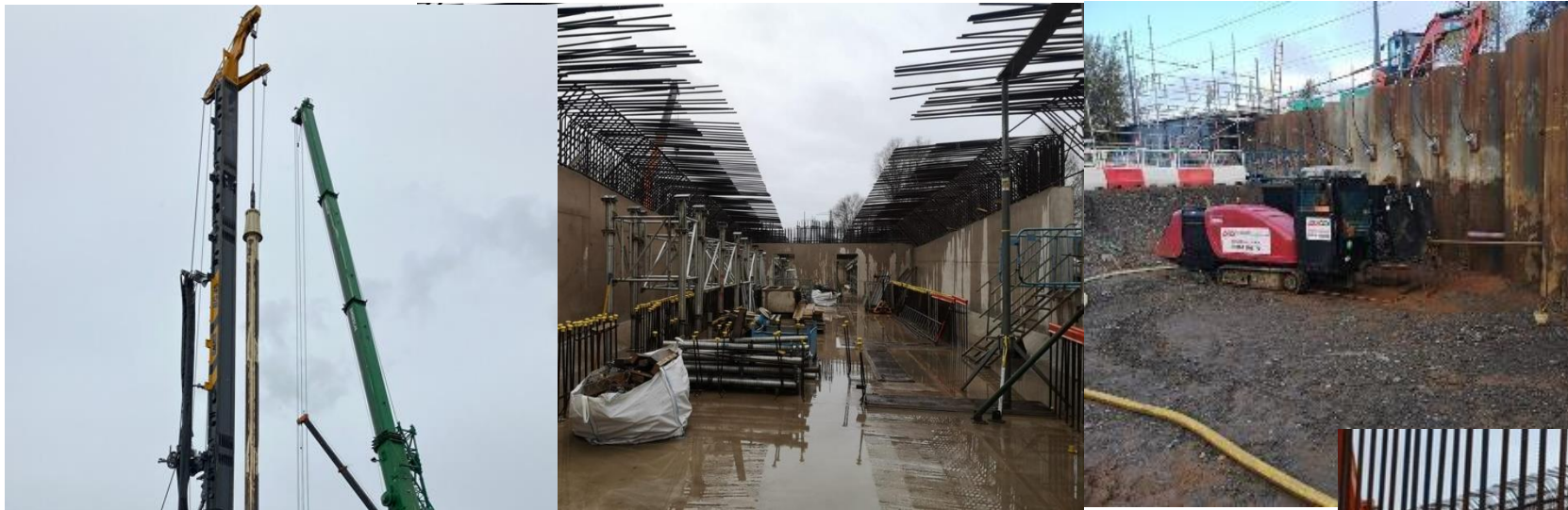


Alongside the WBHE extension, work is progressing well on an upgrade to the Wednesbury depot.

In recent months, ground clearance has continued, temporary tram wash facilities created, temporary staff areas installed allowing beginning of exterior demolition to begin.



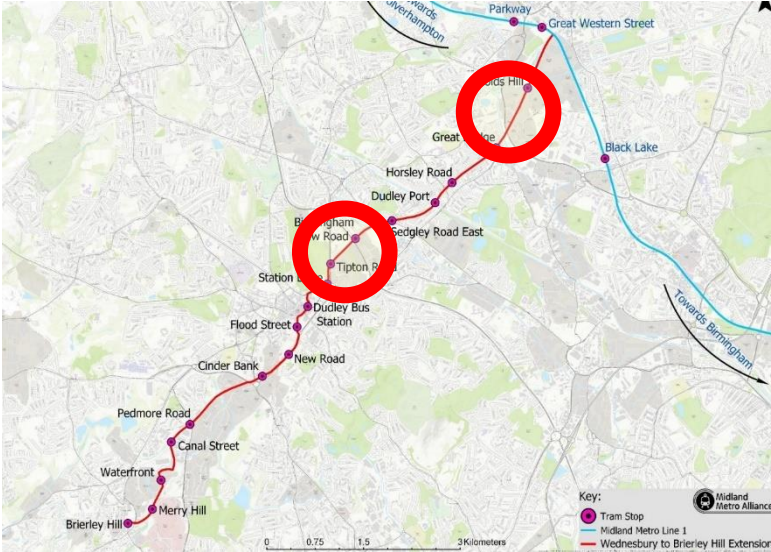
Wednesbury Delta Junction



Work is continuing on the construction of a massive structure which in Wednesbury which will link the new route to existing line one.

Tie-in works on schedule for Easter 2024.

Across the railway corridor



33,000 tons of ballast have been delivered ready for track to begin being installed across the railway corridor this autumn.

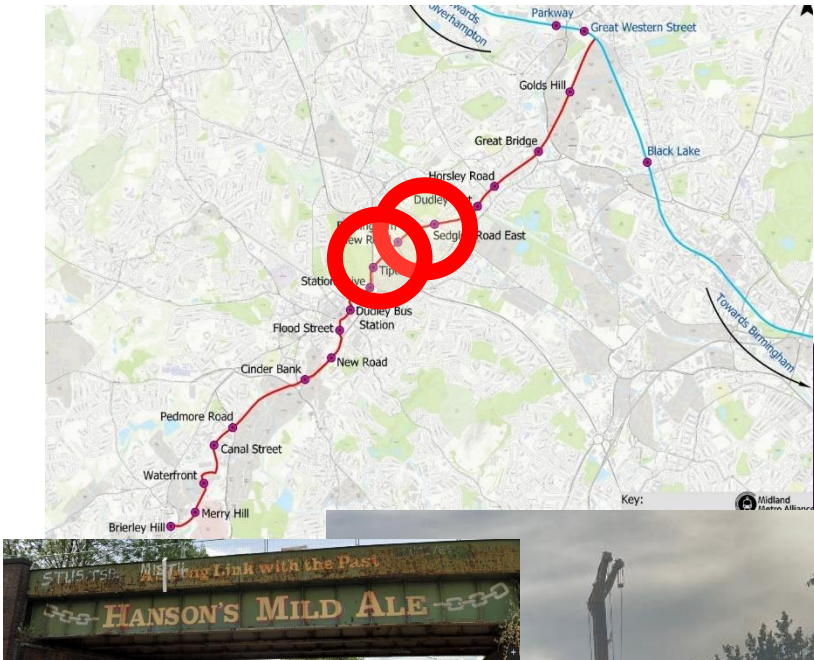
Tramstops

From retaining walls to foundations: tram stops across the route are starting to take shape.

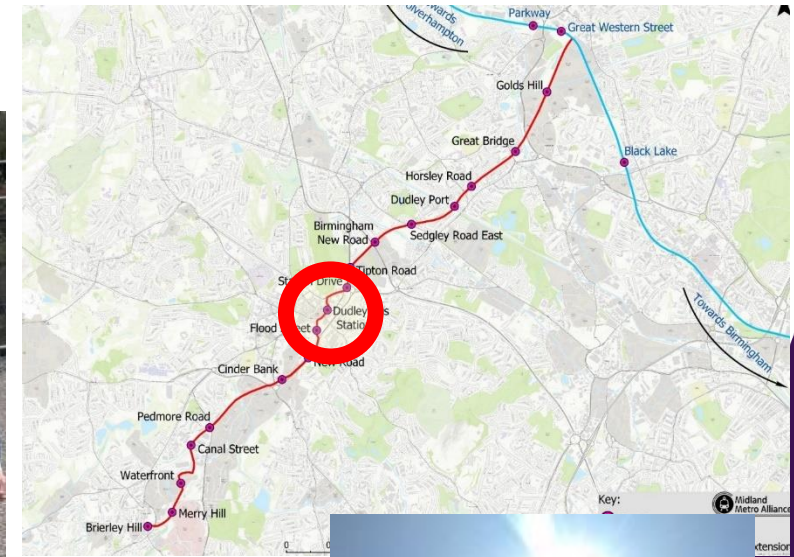


Structures

The majority of the new structures for phase one of the new route have been delivered with just the previously mentioned delta junction in Wednesbury and the Handon's Ale bridge left to complete (more on the latter shortly).



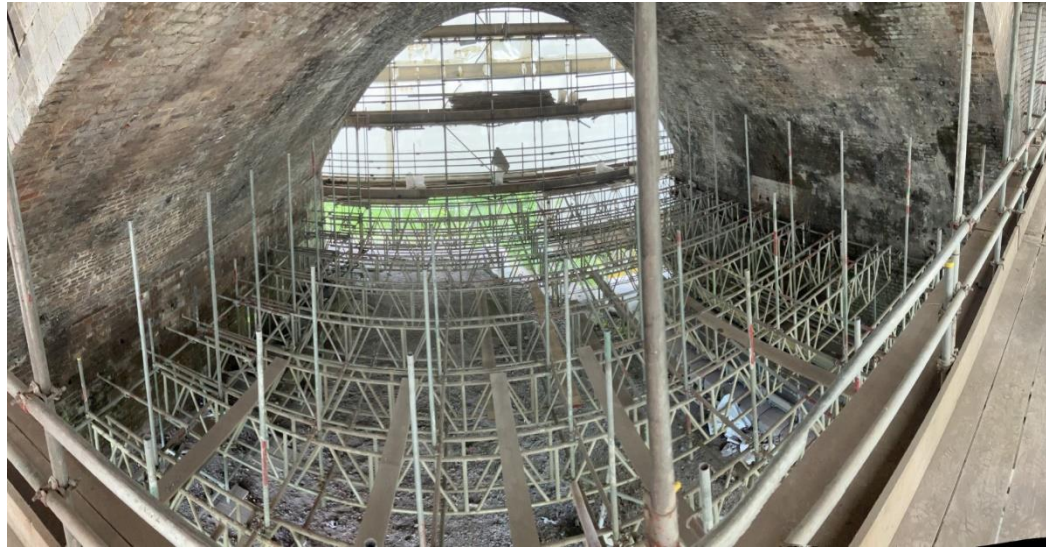
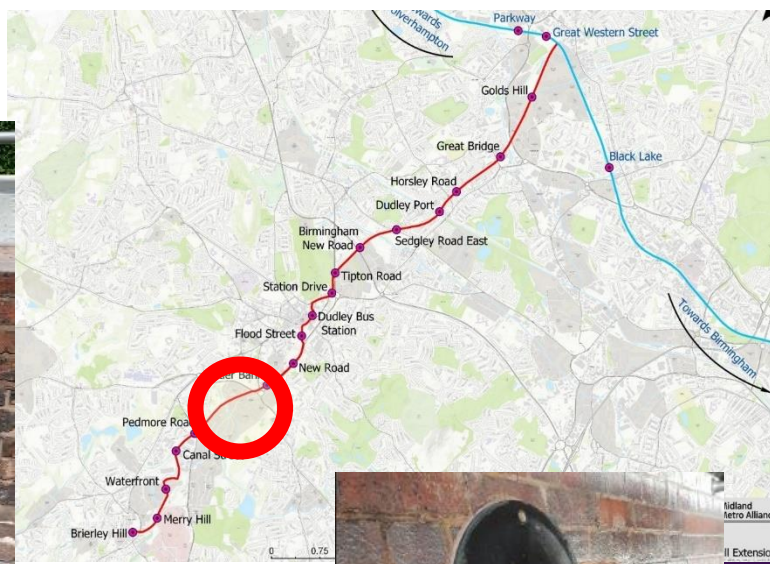
Dudley Town Centre



Over in Dudley town centre, after track work completed in Castle Hill, the installation of rail continues at pace in Flood Street and King Street.

Earlier in the spring, the Prime Minister visited to see progress at site.

Parkhead Viaduct



The work to strengthen historic Parkhead Viaduct in Dudley (which will see tram traffic as part of phase two of the route) is almost complete and scaffolding is due to be removed later in the autumn. The activity to design methods to strengthen the structure was recently highly commended at ICE West Midlands awards.

Communicating forthcoming disruptive activity



Over the past few years our team have been busy delivering a number of activities, including the construction and placement of a number of new structures which are designed to meet the needs of a modern tram network.

The MMA and TfWM is working closely with colleagues at Dudley and Sandwell Councils to plan for disruptive works and also ensure that local people are prepared and allow extra time for their journeys during any closures. This includes:

- Weekly meetings between DMBC Traffic Manager and MMA Site Agents and Comms are in place to ensure all parties can co-ordinate works and ensure adequate temporary traffic management arrangements are in place and communicated to the public and wider stakeholders.
- Majority of phase 2 (Dudley to Brierley Hill) is along the rail corridor and therefore highway impact is limited.
- At Waterfront, Merry and Brierley Hill Terminus detailed Temporary Traffic Management will be required and agreed prior to the commencement at all highway interfaces (this is particularly relevant to Level Street roundabout and Venture Way crossing point).
- Engagement with elected members for any queries they may receive.
- Communicating directly with the local community via dedicated mailing.
- Sharing the news and progress with local media and asking them to share journey planning messaging.
- Targeted social media;
- And working with local attractions to continue to promote that they're open as usual.

Alongside the ongoing delivery, the following work is underway to support the overall programme of works:

- Design and costings review
- Business case update underway with sign off required by DfT and DHLUC.
- This business case is expected to be submitted to Government in Mid 2024
- Following submission, this is expected to be considered later in 2024 with mobilisation for Phase 2 commencing thereafter (subject to approval).

Thank you.

Any questions?