

The Link/3

Metrolink news and developments from GMPTE



On track

▲ The first of Metrolink's brand new third generation trams during night time testing at Victoria

The first of Metrolink's brand new trams began carrying passengers in December.

A total of 40 new trams have been ordered to provide more capacity on existing services and to cater for passengers on the new lines being built to Oldham and Rochdale, Droylsden in Tameside, Chorlton in South Manchester and MediaCityUK in Salford.

The new M5000 trams are being manufactured by global transportation companies Bombardier and Kiepe.

Philip Purdy, GMPTE's Metrolink Director, said: "We've been following the new tram's progress very closely

and I am really pleased with the result.

"Each tram will have undergone extensive operational and safety tests and we've also been carrying out a thorough driver familiarisation programme.

"I am sure people will be delighted with the new trams when they come into service. They are brighter and more modern than the current vehicles, and are easier to move around."

The interior layout of the new trams has been designed to be compliant with current Rail Vehicle Accessibility Regulations (RVAR). This sets out minimum standards on circulation

areas, such as in and around doorways, aisles and the storage and movement of wheelchairs.

To improve passenger comfort, the layout incorporates wider doorways, better handrails for standing passengers and improved legroom for most seated passengers.

Each of the new trams leaves Bombardier's factory in Vienna on the back of an articulated lorry and travels more than 900 miles through Germany, the Netherlands and Rotterdam before landing at Hull. They are then escorted to Metrolink's Queens Road depot in Manchester.



Metrolink director's message

Welcome to the latest edition of The Link newsletter.

Since our last edition, we've made good progress with work on the four new lines we're constructing to Chorlton, Droylsden, Oldham and Rochdale, and MediaCityUK in Salford. These will all be up and running by spring 2012.

In May, local politicians announced funding to extend the network further – to East Didsbury, Ashton-under-Lyne, Rochdale and Oldham town centres, Manchester Airport, and a second line across Manchester city centre.

This is great news. Take a look on page 3 to find out more.

By the time we're finished we'll have the biggest tram network in the UK, with a fleet of new and refurbished trams, a new generation of ticket machines, and a brand new identity for Metrolink.

We've also just completed a major project to replace all the track in Manchester city centre. More information on this can be found on page 3.

It's an incredibly exciting and busy time for us and through this newsletter you'll be able to find out more about what's happening in your area.

Philip Purdy
Metrolink Director
GMPTe

New ticket machines are on their way

The first new ticket machines have been installed, ahead of a network-wide roll out of the machines.

The new state-of-the-art, touch-screen machines can take credit and debit card payments, as well as coins and bank notes. They can also be used to renew season tickets. New machines have been installed on the St Peter's Square and Piccadilly Gardens stops and will be in place across the network by spring 2010.



Safe from harm

School children have been getting a lesson from Metrolink officials on the dangers of construction sites.

GMPTe has written to every primary and secondary school and college within a mile of the new routes to offer presentations on the type of work being done and the dangers associated with construction sites.

So far, staff from GMPTe and MPact-Thales – the consortium appointed to design, build and maintain the new lines – have visited several schools to give the presentation, which is followed by a quiz and questions. Several more

visits are planned.

A special DVD has been sent to a number of schools already and is available upon request.

Bryan Diggins, MPact-Thales Project Director, said: "Construction sites can be dangerous places, so it's important that members of the public steer well clear of them and do not try to enter the worksites."

"We're making special trips into schools to get that message across and we will continue to work hard to that end."



Everybody's talking

An information drive on the expansion of Metrolink has hit the road.

Exhibitions, drop-in events and briefings are being held at venues across Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside and Trafford as work progresses on the four new Metrolink lines.

Thousands of letters are being sent to homes and businesses, and a dedicated public liaison team is responding to thousands of enquiries and making personal calls and presentations to schools and businesses.

Philip Purdy, Metrolink Director, said: "It's important that we keep people up to speed with our progress, the work that is happening in each area and what people can expect from us before each line opens."

"We are keen to minimise any disruption for communities as the new Metrolink lines are constructed."



▲ MPact-Thales' Peter Jones and GMPTe's Philip Purdy at a Metrolink information event in Droylsden.

"To that end, it's important that information flows both ways. We'll be holding regular information events over the life of this project, so be sure to come along, have a chat to the team and share your thoughts."

You can call the Metrolink public liaison team on 0161 244 1555 (open during office hours), email future.metrolink@gmpte.gov.uk or visit www.metrolink.co.uk

Green light to treble size of network

In May 2009, Greater Manchester Integrated Transport Authority (GMITA) and the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) agreed to create the Greater Manchester Transport Fund.

This will provide investment of over £1.5 billion for 15 major public transport and highway schemes in the region – including new Metrolink lines to Ashton-under-Lyne, East Didsbury, Manchester Airport, Oldham and Rochdale town centres and a second line across Manchester city centre.

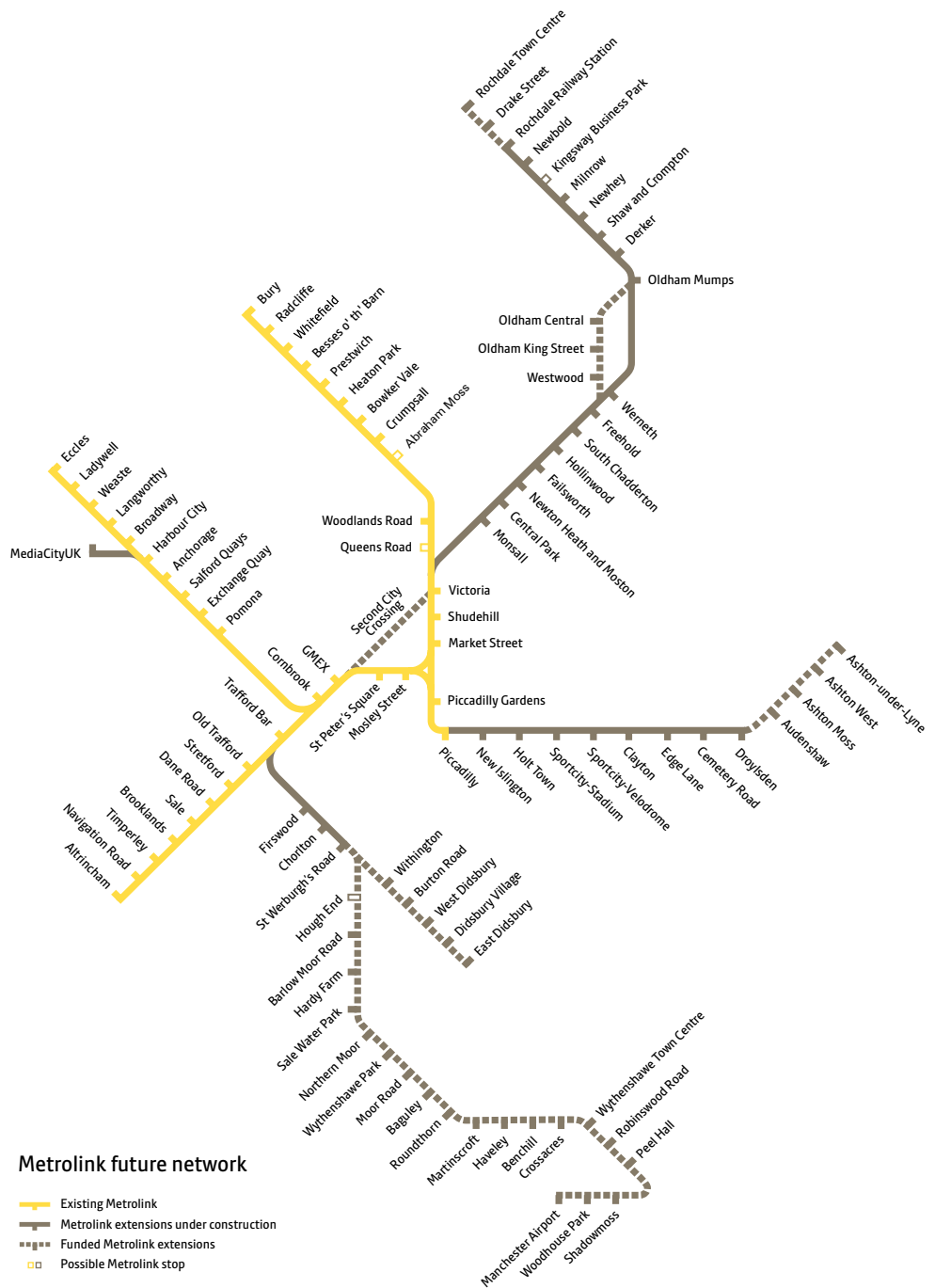
Chair of GMITA, Councillor Keith Whitmore, said: “This is great news for Metrolink passengers.

“Ultimately it means that the Metrolink network will treble in size, which will make it the largest light rail system in the UK.

“It’s going to open up new high quality, frequent travel opportunities for more communities and drive regeneration across the region.

“It’s great news for Greater Manchester and I look forward to work on the Ashton and East Didsbury lines starting early in 2010.”

The lines to Ashton, East Didsbury and Rochdale town centre will be extensions of the lines currently being built to Droylsden, Chorlton and Rochdale train station respectively.



A brand new city centre service

GMPTA completed a major project to replace all of the city centre tram track in early November 2009.

The city centre track is the busiest on the network. By the time the new extensions are complete, trams will pass over it up to 400 times every day.

All of the city centre track has been replaced – around 9,000 metres – and, in partnership with Manchester City Council, high quality street finishes have been installed throughout the city centre.

The Piccadilly Gardens tram stop has been widened to give more room and better shelter facilities to even more passengers, and the St Peter’s Square stop has been heightened along its full length to give improved access and level boarding for double-length trams.

New state-of-the-art ticket machines, which will be rolled out across the Metrolink network by spring 2010, have already been installed on the two revamped stops.



▲ Philip Purdy at the newly redeveloped Piccadilly Gardens Metrolink stop.

East Manchester line



Construction work on track

Construction work on the new tramway along Ashton New Road has begun and work to divert utilities is ongoing.

Work to lay the concrete for the tracks at the Sheffield Street end of the East Manchester line is also being carried out. Market Street in Droylsden reopened earlier in 2009 after utility diversions were completed on schedule. Other utility diversions and construction work along the route of the new line – including work to widen Manchester Road – will be continuing apace in 2010.

Elsewhere, heavy duty machinery is being used to create concrete retaining walls for the stop in the area between Ashton New Road, Holt Town and Cambrian Street.

Work is continuing to build the underpass that will carry the tram under Great Ancoats Street. The first phase of piling has been completed ahead of schedule and the second stage is due to start early in 2010. Wherever possible, Great Ancoats Street will remain open to traffic in both directions.

The names of the new stops on the East Manchester line have been confirmed as: New Islington / Holt Town / Sportcity-Stadium / Sportcity-Velodrome / Clayton / Edge Lane / Cemetery Road / Droylsden. The locations of the stops have not changed since they were first announced.

Track facts

Line length
3.9 miles / 6.3 km

Number of stops
8

Service frequency
Tram every
6 minutes

Opens
Spring 2012

Lifted!

A crane lifted a new footbridge into place on land near Droylsden Library on Manchester Road in June 2009.

The new bridge was installed as part of the ongoing work to widen Manchester Road – which trams will eventually run down.

Bryan Diggins, MPact-Thales Project Director, said: "Installing this bridge on time was key to the construction of the Metrolink line to Droylsden, so it's excellent news that this phase ran so smoothly.

"Building the Metrolink line along the busy route from Manchester to Droylsden is a challenging job but work at all the key points is going well."

▶ A new bridge is lifted into place near the library in Droylsden town centre.

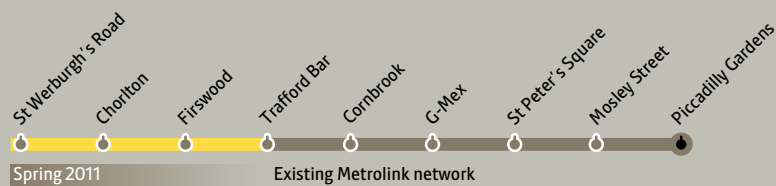




Ahead of schedule in Great Ancoats

Piling work on the retaining walls of the underpass at Great Ancoats Street was completed ahead of schedule earlier in 2009 and utility diversions are now under way. The second stage of the piling across Great Ancoats will start in early 2010. This work will involve traffic management on Great Ancoats Street – which we plan to keep open to two-way traffic wherever possible throughout the work.

South Manchester line



Metrolink's new home takes shape

Work to install permanent drainage along the length of the trackbed is continuing and new retaining walls have been installed along the length of the cutting where trams will run.

This involved work along the length of the track bed from Firwood to the St Werburgh's Road stop.

Work was carried out during the daytime (Monday-Friday) and lasted for just a few days at a time in any area before moving on. Monitoring equipment was used to check noise levels in accordance with the Code of Construction Practice.

During the first few months of 2010, work to install the foundations of the new tram stops will be taking place.

The new tram depot on land off Elsinore Road is also taking shape (pictures below). The site has been cleared and construction work is underway. Engineering work to connect the tracks to the depot with the Altrincham line was carried out in August 2009.

The names of the new stops on the South Manchester line have now been confirmed as: Firwood / Chorlton / St Werburgh's Road. The locations of the stops have not changed.

Track facts

Line length
1.7 miles / 2.7 km

Number of stops
3

Service frequency
Tram every
6 minutes

Opens
Spring 2011



Taking the plunge

A new wildlife haven has been created next to the South Manchester line.

MPact-Thales – the consortium appointed to design, build and maintain the new Metrolink lines – has created a temporary pond along the route for wetland creatures that were displaced by the clearance work earlier in 2009.

The work has been supported by United Utilities, which owns part of the land.

Philip Purdy, GMPTe's Metrolink Director, said: "We take our environmental responsibilities very seriously and we are committed to replacing any habitats affected by the Metrolink work.

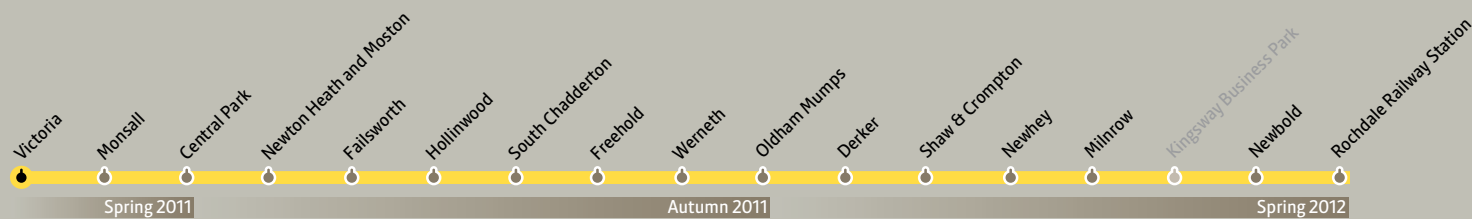
"Wherever possible we want to do this by working with the local community and I'd like to thank people for their help so far."

Bryan Diggins, Project Director, MPact-Thales, said: "I am glad we've been able to work with United Utilities to provide this temporary pond.

"We will now be looking to find a more permanent solution that will provide the same ecological variety."

More information about GMPTe's environmental commitments can be found online at: www.metrolink.co.uk

Oldham & Rochdale line



Major bridge refurbishment underway

Smedley Viaduct is being refurbished as part of work to deliver the new tram line to Central Park in Manchester – the first section of the Oldham and Rochdale extension to open.

The viaduct is well over 100 years old and MPact-Thales is carrying out the most comprehensive refurbishment to it since it was built.

This work, which will take around nine months, involves erecting scaffolding along different sections of the viaduct and removing existing low level walls and fencing between the arches.

There are around 100 bridges and structures on the Oldham and Rochdale line which will be worked on to some degree – from minor improvement work to full scale deck replacement.

Philip Purdy, GMPTE's Metrolink Director, said: "Smedley Viaduct is a huge piece of architecture that is going to be revitalised by the new Metrolink line we're constructing – but we've got to carry out some essential refurbishments first.

"It is the number, scale and scope of such refurbishments along the route which take up much of the time on this project, but we're going to be breathing new life into some great structures that have served the area for generations.

"The sight of scaffolding going up at different points along the structure is a great sign of progress; a great sign that Metrolink is on its way."

Trams will run along the viaduct when the section to Central Park opens in spring 2011.

Track facts

Line length
14 miles / 22.5 km

Number of stops
15

Service frequency
Tram every 6 mins
Shaw & Crompton
Tram every 12 mins
Rochdale

Opens
Spring 2011
Central Park
Autumn 2011
Oldham Mumps
Spring 2012
Rochdale

Bus service changes for Loop Line closure

A special package of enhanced bus services has been provided to cater for passengers while the Oldham Loop Line is converted to Metrolink.

First Manchester has made some significant enhancements to its commercial network to support passengers following the closure of the line on Saturday 3 October 2009. GMPTE has also modified a number of subsidised services to ensure that an appropriate level of service is provided.

As a result, there are double the number of buses linking Milnrow, Newhey and Shaw with Manchester, including a faster service at peak periods that also serves Buckstones. A new link is also being provided to Rochdale railway station from Shaw, Newhey and Milnrow. Normal bus fares apply.

Rail services continue to run as normal on the Calder Valley line between Manchester, Rochdale and Leeds. Extra carriages have been provided on trains in the morning and evening peaks on the Rochdale and Huddersfield lines.

Full details are available online at www.gmpete.com or from Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 (calls from landlines cost 10p per minute. Mobile and landline networks may charge additional tariff costs. Lines are open from 7am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 8pm at weekends).

Line update

The route of the first phase of the line – to Central Park – has been cleared and temporary fencing erected around the worksite.

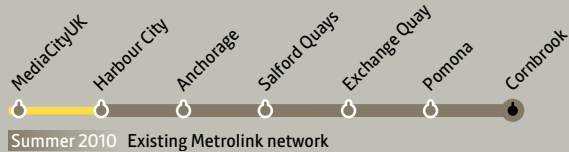
Work to install permanent drainage – using heavy machinery to dig trenches – is under way.

Once complete, piling rigs will be used to create the foundations of the new tram stop at Monsall.

The project also involves a brand new viaduct being built over the Rochdale railway line, existing stations being rebuilt and several new stops being created.

Work has also started to lower the track at South Chadderton, where a new stop will be built, to improve accessibility and minimise the impact on the local area.

The names of the new stops on the Oldham and Rochdale line have now been confirmed as: Monsall / Central Park / Newton Heath and Moston / Failsworth / Hollinwood / South Chadderton / Freehold / Werneth / Oldham Mumps / Derker / Shaw & Crompton / Newhey / Milnrow / Newbold / Rochdale Railway Station. The locations of the stops have not changed.



New line is well on track



▲ Councillor Richard Knowles, Chair of Greater Manchester Integrated Transport Authority's (GMITA) Capital Projects Committee, and Councillor Ian Macdonald, Vice Chair of GMITA, inspect progress on the MediaCityUK spur

MediaCityUK will be home to the BBC's new northern headquarters and is expected to create 15,500 jobs and bring £1 billion to the regional economy in its first five years.

The foundations have been laid for a new 0.4km tram extension into the heart of the development. The foundations of the tram stop have also been created and the tracks are now in place.

Engineering work to connect the spur to the Eccles line was completed in August 2009.

GMPTe was officially given powers to run trams on the new line under the Transport and Works Act (TWA) in 2009. This followed a series of consultations in 2008.

Track facts

Line length

¼ mile / 0.4 km

Number of stops

1

Service frequency

Tram every
12 minutes

Opens

Summer 2010

Focusing on you

How well do you think we are getting our messages across about the Metrolink work happening in your area?

We are setting up discussion groups to get feedback from residents living along the routes of the new lines to ensure that we are sharing information in the best possible way.

The groups – which will be made up of between 8 and 10 people – will take place in local venues in three areas: Oldham/Rochdale, Tameside/Manchester and Trafford/Manchester. Participants will be reimbursed for their time and travel costs. Candidates will be contacted by us and asked a series of questions about themselves.

We will use this information to ensure the groups have as broad a representation as possible.

To register an interest in taking part, or to find out more about Metrolink, please get in touch with our Metrolink team:

Future Metrolink,
GMPTe,
2 Piccadilly Place,
Manchester
M1 3BG

Tel: 0161 244 1555
(9am to 5pm and
out of hours voicemail)

Email:
future.metrolink@gmpte.gov.uk

Be sure to include your name, address, postcode and phone number on any correspondence.

Other formats

If you would like this information in other formats, please phone Traveline on **0871 200 22 33**

Calls cost 10p a minute from landlines. Mobiles and landline networks may charge an additional tariff. Lines are open 7am to 8pm, Monday to Friday, and 8am to 8pm on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.



Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive (GMPTe) owns Metrolink and is responsible for its expansion

