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Metrolink service plans during major transformation of St Peter's Square stop

Metrolink services will continue to run across the city during the upcoming closure of St Peter's Square tram stop, under plans agreed today.

Members of the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee (TfGM) considered several options before agreeing tram service patterns while the [popular city centre stop is completely rebuilt](#) as part of the major Metrolink Second City Crossing programme.

Work is due to start this summer to move the St Peter's Square stop closer to the Art Gallery, allowing room for greater public space as part of Manchester City Council's flagship redevelopment of the square.

The expanded stop will have two new island platforms and four sets of new track, meaning more trams and more frequent services can run through the city.

During the 14-month work programme, the stop will be closed but trams will continue to run on a single line through the square for 10 months, minimising disruption for passengers by keeping services running through the city.

There will be two eight-week periods – during the quieter summer period either side of the single line running – when all tram services through St Peter's Square will be temporarily suspended.

The following services will run during the 10 month period of single line running through St Peter's Square from September 2015 to June 2016:

- Altrincham to Piccadilly, 12-minute service with double trams
- Altrincham to Cornbrook, 12-minute service with single trams
- Bury to Piccadilly, 12-minute service with single trams

- Bury to East Didsbury, 12-minute service with double trams
- Eccles-MediaCityUK to Deansgate-Castlefield, 12-minute service with double trams
- Rochdale to Ashton-Under-Lyne, 12-minute service with single and double trams
- Manchester Airport to Cornbrook, 12-minute service with single trams

Plans are also currently being developed for replacement bus services during the stop closure to ensure good access to the city.

Councillor Andrew Fender, Chair of the TfGM Committee, said: “The work programme at St Peter’s Square has been planned to keep passengers moving around the city as effectively as possible to get to work, shops, enjoy nights out and travel to events easily.

“I’m pleased that we will be able to continue running services that will connect passengers from the north to the south of the city, and vice versa, as well as continuing to meet heavy demand for travel to major events across the network.”

Peter Cushing, TfGM’s Metrolink Director, said: “This is undoubtedly a major piece of work and the task for us is to minimise the impact, as far as possible, on our customers and the service we offer them.

“We’ve planned carefully and the service pattern agreed today will allow us flexibility to maintain reliable, frequent tram links across the city while we deliver a hugely challenging and complex construction project.”

Work will start at St Peter’s Square this summer directly following the redevelopment of the [Deansgate-Castlefield stop](#) currently underway, which will provide a turning point for trams south of the city centre.

The new [Second City Crossing](#), due 2017, will begin in Lower Mosley Street and run through St Peter’s Square, turn down Princess Street and head along Cross Street and

Corporation Street before re-joining the existing Metrolink line at the expanded Metrolink Victoria stop.

A brand new stop is being built at Exchange Square – near shops, the National Football Museum and the historic Grade 2 listed Corn Exchange building.

In addition to the transformation of the Deansgate-Castlefield, St Peter’s Square and Manchester Victoria stops, a new stop also will be built in Exchange Square.

Trams could be running between Victoria and the brand new Exchange Square stop as early as winter 2015/16 – midway through the St Peter’s Square work – which will allow more frequent Metrolink services to run between Shaw & Crompton and the city centre.

The Second City Crossing is part of a co-ordinated three-year programme of works, known collectively as Grow, which will enable Manchester city centre to flourish for years to come.

Between now and 2017, the city centre will see more than £1bn of investment in projects to lay the foundations for continuing success by ‘future proofing’ the city’s transport infrastructure. Also under the Grow umbrella are a series of major regeneration projects. Together they add up to a wave of investment unprecedented since the mid-1990s.

For more information on the Second City Crossing programme, visit www.transformationinformation.co.uk.

ENDS

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Notes to Editors

1. Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) oversees transport and travel across Greater Manchester, home of the UK's largest regional economy outside London and a diverse population of over 2.5 million people.

2. 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 57.5 miles and 92 stops across seven lines – hosting 30 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 £580m Northern Hub project.
- 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 a £45m investment into cycle routes and facilities, alongside a programme of cycling information, education and training.
- works with Job Centres, job-seekers and local businesses to encourage sustainable commuting.



3. For more information, visit www.tfgm.com.