

Cross-City Bus Priority



Policy Context

The government wants to deliver a transport system that works for everyone. Buses are an affordable, accessible transport choice, with the ability to reduce congestion and improve air quality and bring economic benefits to the places they serve.

In the West Midlands, the Government has provided over £24 million to fund new bus priority measures that have been identified by the Mayor of the West Midlands as necessary to benefit almost 90 million passengers per year.

TfWM's Vision for Bus sets out the need for a step-change in delivering bus infrastructure, promoting growth and creating catchments to new and productive socio-economic markets. To achieve this and to combat increasing delays caused by congestion, the proposals include a network of cross-city bus routes, complementing the Sprint (Bus Rapid Transit in the West Midlands), Metro and rail networks.



Package 1: Birmingham City Centre

Package 1 Birmingham city centre within the A4540 Middleway. There are already a range of existing bus priority schemes and new proposed schemes, including Sprint and the Clean Air Zone Bus Priority Measures; the measures proposed in this XC package of works aim to complement these.

The interventions originally proposed were as follows:

- 1) Margaret Street. *Road alignment, reducing car parking bays and creation of two new bus stops.*
- 2) Newhall Street. *Bus, Hackney and Cycles only right turn from Great Charles Street Queensway to Newhall Street with traffic signal improvements.*
- 3) Bristol Street. *Southbound bus lane on Bristol Street from junction of Wrentham Street to A4540 Belgrave Middleway.*
- 4) Snow Hill Queensway. *New 24-hour Bus, Hackney cabs, motorcycles and cycles lane and bus gate* through the junction with A4400 (inner ring road Queensway)*
- 5) Summer Hill Road / Sandpits / Paradise. *Eastbound bus lane.*
- 6) Suffolk Street Queensway (new). *Reinstatement of the Southbound Bus Lane from Paradise Circus*

Scheme Funded via Better Deal for Bus Users	Status	JT Peak Benefits / bus	Reliability Benefits	Passengers* Total passengers passing through both directions (2019)
Margaret Street	Delivery Q4 2021 – Q1 2022 (TRO DEPENDANT) FBC	15 seconds	5%	11,187,086
Newhall Street		50 seconds	65%	11,187,086
Bristol Street		100 seconds	25%	2,214,036
Snow Hill Queensway		20 seconds	30%	6,398,398
Summer Hill Road / Sandpits	NON-STAT CONSULTATION Delivery Q4 2021 – Q1 2022 (TRO DEPENDANT)	60 seconds	5%	3,025,916
Paradise Circus				Progressing by BCC Delivery Q4 2021 – Q1 2022
Suffolk Street Queensway	CONCEPT Delivery Q4 2021- Q1 2022	tbc	tbc	No data



Package 3: Dudley – Druids Heath

South:

The southern segment of Package 3 operates along the Alcester Road corridor, serving Moseley, Kings Heath and Druids Heath. Service number 50 operates along this route.

Projects being developed are:

- 1) Northbound bus lane Alcester Road South Appian Close – Featherstone Rd.
- 2) Right turn on Alcester Rd South (Broad Lane / Cocks Moors Leisure)
- 3) Northbound Southbound bus lane Alcester Rd South (Idminston Croft – Millpool Gdns).

West:

The western arm of Package 3 is served by the 82 and 87 routes. The 82 runs to Bearwood, which is a spur off Package 3, and the 87 runs to Dudley. This package extends beyond the Birmingham boundary, into the Sandwell and Dudley, serving Dudley Bus Station.

Schemes proposed were:

- 1) Dudley Road Bus Lanes – *Northbound Bus Lane on Dudley Road*
- 2) Cape Hill Junction Improvements – *Cape Hill / Shireland Road / High Street / Windmill Lane junction and convert streets to one-way.*
- 3) Waterloo Road Crossing Improvements – *Upgrade Zebra Crossing to signal controlled to increase pedestrian safety and jn capacity.*
- 4) Burnt tree island junction improvements – *Junction upgrade (New Birmingham Road/Birmingham Road/Burnt Tree and New Birmingham Road/Tividale Rd/ Bunn's Lane)*

Scheme Funded via 'Better Deal for Bus'	Status	JT Benefits / bus	Reliability Benefits	Passengers
Alcester Road Appian Close	CONCEPT Delivery Q2 2022	30 seconds	10%	5,107,706
Alcester Road South right turn	CONCEPT DELIVERY Q2 2022	-	-	5,220,246
Alcester Road South bus lane	CONCEPT DELIVERY Q2 2022	220 seconds	30%	5,220,246
Dudley Road	Outline DELIVERY Q2 2022	110 seconds	35%	5,555,276
Cape Hill	CONCEPT DELIVERY Q4 2021 – Q1 2022	tbc	tbc	3,752,170
Waterloo Road (Via funding agreement – Sandwell Delivery)	Delivery by SMBC 2021/22 DELIVERY Q2-Q3 2021	120 seconds	15%	1,769,188
Burnt Tree (Via funding agreement – Dudley Delivery)	Delivery by DMBC 2022/23	90 seconds	85%	14,893,518

Package 3: Service Benefits

Service 50 – Birmingham to Druids Heath

- Passengers on Service 50 Southbound will see a total end to end journey time saving of nearly 4 minutes reducing the current peak journey time of 34 minutes to just over 30 minutes.
- Northbound the total journey time saving over 4 minutes reducing the end to end journey time to under 30 minutes.

Service 82 / 87 – Birmingham to Dudley

- Passengers on these services travelling towards Dudley & Bearwood will see journey time savings of nearly 5 ½ mins against the current peak journey times of 58 minutes and 31 minutes respectively.
- Journeys towards Birmingham will see a total journey time savings of nearly 3 ½ minutes

The forecast journey time savings and improvements in reliability and punctuality will enable operators to reduce the current number of vehicles used on these routes to be utilised in other areas and also contribute further towards local air quality standards.