

# Metrolink and Active Travel Transport for Greater Manchester

Trafford Council Scrutiny Committee  
Wednesday 18 September 2024

# The Bee Network

The Bee Network is our plan for a high-quality, affordable and fully integrated public transport and active travel system for the people and businesses of Greater Manchester.

The Bee Network will be pivotal to delivering sustainable economic growth and the city region's objectives, set out in the Greater Manchester Strategy, by connecting people with education, jobs and opportunity, unlocking development, enabling housing growth, acting as a catalyst for regeneration, reducing carbon emissions and supporting social inclusion and active and healthy lifestyles.

Greater Manchester has led the way in reforming and improving its transport network, and we are now in the transition phase with some elements of the Bee Network already starting to change the way in which people travel across the city-region. As pioneers of bus franchising, we now have local control of our most-used form of public transport, in addition to the largest light rail network in the country – Metrolink, and we are delivering a world-class walking, wheeling and cycling network as part of a wider infrastructure investment programme with an aggregate value of up to ~£3.5bn.

This report provides an overview of Metrolink operation and Active Travel schemes in Trafford.



**Metrolink**



# Metrolink

- Metrolink is the largest light rail operator in the UK, operating 103km serving 99 stops across Greater Manchester.
- Trafford is served by the Altrincham line which carries the highest number of passengers of any line across the network and the Trafford Park line which opened on the 22nd March 2020.
- 44.5 million annual journeys took place across the Metrolink network to the end of August 2024. 98% of the total number of journeys carried at the equivalent point in 2019 (Metrolink best year for annual journeys carried).

Metrolink August 2024	Total network	Altrincham	Trafford Park
Rolling annual patronage (million journeys)	44.5	10.0	2.4

## Footfall by stop - Altrincham & Trafford Park lines (12 months):

Altrincham Stops	Annual footfall	Trafford Park Line Stops	Annual footfall2
Altrincham	2,845,500	The Trafford Centre	1,086,500
Sale	1,799,600	Wharfside	676,700
Old Trafford	1,542,500	Imperial War Museum	380,400
Brooklands	1,347,500	Barton Dock Road	365,900
Stretford	1,343,100	Parkway	349,300
Trafford Bar	1,262,500	Village	133,300
Timperley	996,200		
Navigation Road	964,000		
Dane Road	481,100		

# Metrolink

- Upcoming engineering works impacting Metrolink services

Location	Works	Customer impact	Duration
City Centre	Track renewal	Piccadilly Gardens – no trams to Piccadilly Station from St Peter's Sq. Customers can change at Victoria for trams to Piccadilly. Replacement bus operating between Deansgate–Castlefield and Piccadilly station.	27/08/24 - 15/09/24
Cornbrook	Track renewal	Trafford Park line will operate to Wharfside. Altrincham line will operate to Old Trafford. Replacement buses will be in operation between these stops and the City Centre.	05/10/24 & 06/10/24

- The Metrolink renewals programme is currently being developed for 2025 and updates will be issued once the works and customer impact is known.

# Active Travel



# Active Travel: walking, wheeling and cycling

- Active Travel is the 'glue' that brings together the wider travel network. There are virtually no journeys that do not start and end with an active element.
- The Bee Active Network sits at the heart of our Bee Network vision. Ultimately, we aim to construct a network comprising over 2700km of walking, wheeling and cycling routes – connecting more than 95% of the population of GM to within 400m of a Bee Network standard route.
- Active travel accounted for around 33% of all trips by Greater Manchester residents in 2023. However, we aim to double walking, and double then double again the number of trips made by bike. Walking and cycling have increased in GM by 20% and 21% respectively between 2021 and 2023 (source: TRADS).
- This is why in GM we are delivering one of the largest capital programmes of the recent past. Comprising over £275m investment, commencing in 2018/19 the Active Travel Programme delivered more than 120km of safe segregated routes, opened up hundreds of kilometres of quieter routes, delivered tens of improved junctions, and built numerous new crossings. We are on track to deliver nearly 140km of Bee Active Network routes by March 2025.
- Cycle Hire – now Starling Bank Bikes – is the first phase of what we hope to be a GM wide public bike share scheme, similar to that seen in London, Paris and other major cities. Total rides to date are over 910,000 comprising some 2,274,890km ridden saving tonnes of CO2 and reducing reliance on private cars / taxis predominantly.
- The Active Travel Programme has also supported the implementation of the replacement of the spot-speed camera system across GM and enabled the introduction of an extensive network of Average Speed Cameras.

# Active Travel: more than just a cycle network

The Active Travel programme brings together best practice in delivery of sustainable travel by supporting not just the creation of the UK's largest planned walking, wheeling and cycling network but also leading behavioural change and 'activation' interventions.

Locally Trafford is progressing the following:

- School Streets: 1 delivered, 6 in delivery, 1 in development
- 11 x Community Access Grants (incl Altrincham BID) which have delivered 16 cargo bikes, 4 adaptive bikes and 8 community projects

Cycle parking:

- 3 grants delivered under ATF2 (2 schools & 1 Housing Association) – providing 68 spaces
- 15 approved grants through ATF4 (7 Community organisations, 1 small business & 7 schools) will provide 268 new and improved spaces
- Community activation: 4 x Cycle & Stride groups, 4 secondary schools participating in Youth Travel Ambassador project
- 3 bike libraries in Trafford: Sale, Woodsend and Old Trafford



# Active Travel: local delivery

Trafford continue to make positive progress in delivering their active travel infrastructure programme:

- MCF Talbot Road scheme was commissioned in July (3 new protected signalised junctions)
- MCF A56 Phase 2 scheme commenced work on site in July, scheduled for completion in November
- MCF Seymour Grove scheme received approval at Bee Network Committee in July, works scheduled to commence in November
- Flixton Community Streets (part of MCF Urmston Active Neighbourhoods) trial commenced in August
- CRSTS Streets for All Carrington Sustainable Transport Measures scheme - Strategic Outline Business Case submitted in August
- MCF Bee Network Crossings Programme – new segregated walking, wheeling and cycling crossing delivered at Gorsey Lane/Dunham Road in Altrincham in December 2023
- ATF4 extension – Trafford have one crossing in this programme, at the junction of Aimson Road with Shaftesbury Avenue in Timperley. Construction scheduled for early 2025

THANK  
YOU

