

TFGM UPDATE FOR BURY COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 2020

1. NATIONAL LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS

On 31 October the Prime Minister announced that new national “lockdown” measures would be in place across the entirety of England from 5 November to 2 December. As part of these new national measures residents in England have been told to “Stay at Home”. TfGM has issued the following travel information and advice for passengers during national coronavirus restrictions, based on the [Government’s safer travel guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/safer-travel-guidance). Further information can be found at: <https://tfgm.com/coronavirus>

- **Help protect the NHS and save lives - stay at home and avoid travel, except for work, education, or other essential reasons.**
- Consider walking or cycling if you can.
- Public transport is running as usual for those who need it, but you must wear a face covering unless exempt and should follow safety guidelines - keep your distance from other passengers, clean your hands frequently and use contactless payment.
- If you have to travel please plan ahead, allow extra time for your journey, consider travelling outside peak times and using quieter routes.

2. NETWORK UPDATES

In the week ending **8 November** the number of overall trips made in Greater Manchester was **38.3million**, a decline of **1.3%** from the previous week and approximately **26%** below typical pre-pandemic levels.

As anticipated, it was a week of two halves, with the period Monday to Wednesday seeing a **12%** increase in activity as pupils returned to school following half term, however this was offset by a **17%** decline in trips between Thursday and Sunday following the start of national lockdown restrictions.

While bus patronage increased by around **17.3%**, last week saw further declines in passenger number on Metrolink (**-8.6%**) and in footfall at Piccadilly Rail Station (**-16.1%**).

Highway activity fell by **3.5%**, but there was a sharp rise in cycling trips (**38.7%**) – which could be attributed to lockdown restrictions and a spell of better weather.

Face covering compliance currently stands at **90%** on bus, **86%** on Metrolink and **87%** on rail.

3. LIVING WITH COVID

The latest Transport Focus passenger survey data shows that concerns over safety and cleanliness are preventing a significant proportion of people from using public transport. For example, of those surveyed:

- 33% of people who used public transport frequently prior to lockdown are not doing so because they don’t feel safe.

- More than two-in-five are avoiding public transport because they don't think enough passengers are wearing face coverings.
- More than two-in-five are avoiding public transport because they don't think it is clean enough.

A number of additional measures have been announced including:

Covid Ambassadors

- A team of 'ambassadors' will engage with customers around the network, provide free face coverings and hand sanitiser, explain safety measures and encourage off-peak travel and contactless payment.

Enhanced Metrolink cleaning

- An increase of 500 hours per week, equating to 11 full time staff working five days per week on a seven day rota.
- Provides two additional stop cleans per day outside of city centre stops (which are already cleaned four times per day).
- Cleaning on trams whilst travelling to each stop and focussing on common touch points (which are already cleaned at least every two hours).

Enhanced cleaning at bus stations and interchanges

- Common touch points cleaned at least every two hours.

Roll-out of hand sanitisers on the Metrolink network

- Trialling the installation of hand sanitiser dispensers at, initially, 20 locations on the network.

Roll-out of the 'sunflower' lanyard for hidden disabilities

- Wearing the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower discreetly indicates to people that the wearer has a hidden disability and may need additional support, help or more time.

TfGM will procure packs of sunflower lanyards, pins and other items and donate them to customers who require them. Staff will be trained to identify the sunflower and provide appropriate support.

4. SCHOOL TRANSPORT FUNDING

Greater Manchester has [secured](#) a further £2.4m to continue running additional school bus services to support social distancing for the second half of the Autumn term. This is in addition to the initial £2.25 million funding package secured by TfGM for dedicated school and college transport in August.

5. METROLINK FUNDING

Last month the Department for Transport (DfT) confirmed that a further funding package of up to £33.58 million will be made available to Metrolink.

The money is part of a wider £67.8m funding package which has been made available to tram services across the north and midlands. The funding will be available from 27 October 2020 to 31 March 2021, and will be split into two tranches, with £17.5m assigned to Metrolink for the first 12 weeks and the rest available to support services to the end of the financial year subject to a government review informed by a plan to move the network onto a financially sustainable footing.

6. NEW TRAMS

The first of 27 new trams arrived this week, boosting capacity on the network and providing more space for social distancing. Once testing and commissioning has been completed the first trams will be put

into service before Christmas, with further trams set to arrive every 3-4 weeks after that. Once in full service the new trams will increase capacity on the network by 15% and will enable Metrolink to run more double trams for customers. The new trams are being funded by the Transforming Cities Fund and were first announced as part of the Congestion Deal in March 2018.

7. BURY PARK AND RIDE

Plans to increase parking provision at park and rides in Bury have been approved. The applications, which will see the number of spaces increased at Radcliffe by 111 to 480 and at Whitefield by 123 to 331, were approved last week by Bury Council's Planning Committee. The plans will see single additional decks added to the existing sites as well as increased lighting, signage, CCTV, electric vehicle charging points and cycle storage. To minimise the impact, the closures will be staggered with Whitefield closing first in Summer 2021 and re-opening ahead of Radcliffe, which will close in Autumn 2021 and re-open in Winter 2021/22. A separate planning application, to provide 250 temporary park and ride spaces on land to the rear of Spring Lane School, has also been submitted to the planning committee and will be considered at a future meeting. Should permission be granted, the temporary car park will be built before the closure of either site to minimise disruption.

The project will not only support Greater Manchester's vision of having world class transport connections, it will also support Radcliffe's long-term, sustainable economic growth, providing increased access to opportunities. TfGM is also currently developing business cases to expand a number of similar park and ride schemes serving key commuter routes, making public transport accessible to even more people across the region.

8. CYCLING AND WALKING

Last month TfGM announced that a further 55 miles of new cycling and walking routes, and an additional 140 new crossings, were to be created across Greater Manchester by December 2021. The projects, which will benefit all 10 districts, total around £85 million and mark the start of regions Bee Network infrastructure. In addition, 25 miles of pop-up cycling, and walking routes will be delivered by spring 2021. In Bury, £2.2m has been allocated for crossing point and junction improvements which are expected to be completed by Winter 2021. Also, £1.8m has been allocated for the Elton Beeway, which will complete a direct route from Bury to Radcliffe via the canal towpath and is also expected to be completed by Winter 2021. Additionally, funding has been allocated for GM wide projects including; £2.2m for Bee Network crossings, £6.1m for safety camera digitalisation, and £7.1m for a GM Bike Hire Scheme due to launch in Spring 2021.

Last week, the Secretary of State for Transport announced £175m in further funding to English transport authorities under the next tranche of the Active Travel Fund (formerly Emergency Active Travel Fund). Greater Manchester has been allocated £15.9million, based on a bid of £13.9million. This reflects DfT's criteria which has awarded LAs with the strongest bids 125% of their allocation and is a further recognition of our position as a leading active travel city-region. This figure is in addition to the £3.174million GM received under tranche one of the fund. TfGM and local authority officers will meet over the next week to work through details and delivery arrangements.

9. AUTUMN CONSULTATIONS

Two public consultations have launched on the [GM Clean Air Plan](#) and [Minimum Licensing Standards](#) for Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles. The consultations will run concurrently for 8 weeks until 3 December.

The Clean Air Plan consultation asks for views on key elements of the GM-wide Clean Air Zone including its proposed boundary, daily charges, discounts and exemptions, and a request to

government for a multi-million-pound funding package to support local businesses to upgrade to cleaner vehicles. Questions about the impact of COVID-19 on businesses are also included.

A consultation on Minimum Licensing Standards for Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles is running alongside the GM Clean Air Plan consultation, so that those affected by both can understand the full impact of the proposals.

Greater Manchester-wide minimum standards are being proposed to help ensure that all residents and visitors see these services as safe and reliable, and preferable to those not licensed by GM local authorities.

Questions about the impact of COVID-19 on the trade are also included in this consultation, which will inform the final standards.

Last month also saw the launch of a consultation on the [City Centre Transport Strategy](#). Running for six weeks it will ask for people's views on the draft strategy. The consultation is being hosted by Manchester City Council and is a joint strategy with TfGM and Salford City Council.

10. BURY INTERCHANGE

The Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 Delivery Plan identifies Bury Interchange as a priority project for redevelopment. In consultation with Bury Council TfGM has developed outline proposals to upgrade the interchange including bus and Metrolink platform/access improvements.

With the support of Bury Council, TfGM is progressing the procurement exercise to assemble a consultant team to develop a Strategic Outline Business Case for delivery of a comprehensive redevelopment of the current interchange site. The scheme will deliver a customer focused, future-ready travel hub enabling interchange for current and future transport modes that acts as a catalyst for regeneration whilst seamlessly integrating with the emerging Bury town centre revised masterplan.

Securing a case for the Interchange will ensure we are ready to take advantage of any funding opportunities. In this regard, the scheme has been included within the recent Greater Manchester Infrastructure Programme (GMIP) submission to the Comprehensive Spending Review. There is also engagement with DfT and HMT on the Future Cities transport funding package to 2025.

Design ambitions include:

- High quality architecture aligning with town centre plan.
- Contributing to Burys target of carbon neutral by 2030
- Flexibility for future transport opportunities to be "built in"
- High standards of accessibility
- Vibrant and community oriented focal point with local business opportunities