



TfGM Update July/Aug 2026

There are a number of upcoming transport changes and events that may affect journeys across Greater Manchester over the coming weeks. This includes planned tram engineering works, major events, and ongoing rail improvements, so passengers are advised to check before they travel and allow extra time where possible.

Metrolink Engineering Works

- Major improvement works will take place on the Metrolink network between 13 July and 2 August as part of a wider investment programme to improve the safety, reliability and resilience of the tram network.
- During the works, trams will **not** operate on the Eccles, Trafford Centre and Altrincham lines, with amended services also affecting the East Didsbury, Manchester Airport and Rochdale lines.
- Replacement bus services will be available for customers travelling between affected stops.
- The project includes the renewal of tram tracks in the City Centre and at Cornbrook, helping to improve the long-term reliability of the network.
- TfGM is also investing in new lifts at eight Metrolink stops to improve accessibility for passengers with mobility needs, pushchairs and luggage.
- The first lift replacements will take place at Heaton Park from 29 July and Failsworth from 3 August, with support available for customers while the lifts are out of service.

Upcoming Events and Travel Advice

- Several major events are taking place across Greater Manchester during July and August, which may lead to increased demand on public transport and local roads:
 - **11-12 July:** July Festwich, Heaton Park
 - **8 Aug:** Peter Kay, AO Arena
 - **21 Aug:** The Cure, Wythenshawe Park
 - **22 Aug:** Lewis Capaldi, Wythenshawe Park
 - **28 Aug:** Pulp, Wythenshawe Park
 - **29 Aug:** Courteeners, Wythenshawe Park
 - **30 Aug:** The Prodigy, Wythenshawe Park
 - **27-30 Aug:** Creamfields, Warrington
 - **28-31 Aug:** Manchester Pride, Manchester

Rail Improvements and Disruption

- Planned rail improvement works will continue throughout 2026, which may affect services at different times across the network.

Transpennine Route Upgrade (TRU)



- This is a major, multi-billion-pound programme of railway improvements across the North.
- Key works affecting Manchester:
 - The railway between Stalybridge and Huddersfield will be closed on weekends throughout July/Aug while TPE carries out upgrade works. This will affect journeys between Manchester, Huddersfield and Leeds, with some services diverted, amended or replaced by buses, and journey times likely to be longer than usual. Please check <https://www.tpexpress.co.uk/travel-updates/planned-engineering-work> for full details.
 - Manchester Victoria to Stalybridge: Monday 10 Aug to Friday 15 Aug 2026

Salford Central Weekend Closures July

- Engineering work is taking place in the Salford Central area, closing the station every Saturday and Sunday throughout July.
- As a result, services will **not** call at Salford Central.
- Services will still be able to pass through the station without stopping.
- Passengers should instead use Salford Crescent, which is a short distance away.

New Night-Time Trains to Manchester Airport

- New overnight train services are now running between Manchester Piccadilly and Manchester Airport.
- Trains run roughly every hour through the night, seven days a week.
- This supports people travelling very early or late, including airport staff and passengers.
- Alongside this, a simplified rail fares system with just Anytime and Off-Peak tickets is being introduced to make travel easier and better value.

Greater Manchester to Receive 125 More Electric Bee Network Buses

- 125 new electric buses will be added to the Bee Network, supporting UK manufacturer Wrightbus.
- This follows earlier orders of 55 buses this year and 76 previously, keeping the network on track for a fully electric fleet by 2030.
- Around half of Greater Manchester's depots are now electrified, including Ashton and Middleton, with upgrades at Bolton, Oldham and Hyde Road.

A Cheaper Way to Get Around Greater Manchester

- Rising fuel prices are putting added pressure on household budgets, and many people are looking for ways to cut everyday costs.
- Travelling on a Bee Network bus is a simple and affordable option, with flat fares, frequent services and plenty of capacity across the network.



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- With bus journeys capped at just £2, passengers can save money on travel and have more to spend on the things you enjoy, without the worry of fuel costs.

Improving Safety and Accessibility for Pupils Across Greater Manchester

- Students across Greater Manchester are benefiting from safer, more accessible routes to school, with 152 crossings installed or upgraded at 59 junctions. As a result, 210 schools are now within a five-minute walk of a signal-controlled ('green man') crossing, making walking a safer and more attractive option.
- At Philips High School in Whitefield, new signal-controlled crossings have been installed on all arms of the Higher Lane, Pinfold Lane and Park Lane junction. The improvements followed concerns about safety, including previous collisions and near misses, particularly given its proximity to a primary school.
- The scheme supports TfGM's wider aim to encourage active travel and improve road safety around schools, while reducing the number of junctions without pedestrian signals from 187 to 161.

Active Travel Strategy Sets New Targets

- The new strategy sets out a national target for more than half of all short journeys in towns and cities to be made by walking, wheeling or cycling by 2035.
- It also aims for 60% of children aged 5 to 16 to travel actively to school by the same year.
- The Government is expected to invest over £4.5 billion in active travel over the next five years.
- Working with Active Travel England and local authorities, this will help deliver:
 - 5,000 new walking, wheeling and cycling routes
 - 10,000 safer crossings, making it easier to connect homes with schools, high streets and local services by 2030
- Overall, the strategy brings together transport, health and investment in a new cross-government approach to active travel, while giving local leaders more say in how it is delivered to meet the needs of their communities.
- More information can be found at [Cycling and walking boom with £4.5 billion for thousands of new routes and safer crossings - GOV.UK](#)

Greater Manchester Museum of Transport: Bee Network Exhibition and 125-Year Celebration

- A new exhibition celebrating the Bee Network has opened at the Museum of Transport Greater Manchester. It was officially unveiled by



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Greater Manchester's Transport Commissioner, Vernon Everitt, on Wednesday 10 June.

- The exhibition tells the story of the Bee Network from its early beginnings to today, including how it has been developed and rolled out across Greater Manchester.
- It also highlights key features such as the Bee Network app, Tap and Go, and Starling Bank Bikes.
- The museum is owned by Transport for Greater Manchester and run by the award-winning Greater Manchester Transport Society.
- Together, they welcome more than 20,000 visitors each year and host a range of events. These recently included a celebration of 125 years of the neighbouring Queens Road bus garage on 6 June.
- As part of this, the first major bus garage open day in Greater Manchester for 30 years gave visitors a rare chance to look inside an operational depot.
- More events are planned throughout the year, including heritage bus rides, open days, and themed exhibitions.
- The museum is open Wednesdays, weekends and bank holidays from 10:00 to 16:30, with free admission on Wednesdays for school visits.

Bee Network Rail Integration

What is Changing

Rail services are being brought into the Bee Network to make travel simpler and easier to use. This will improve connections between trains, buses, and trams so journeys are more joined-up.

When Changes Will Happen

The first rail lines join in December 2026. More lines will be added in 2027 and 2028. By 2030, all local stations in Greater Manchester will be part of the Bee Network.

What Passengers Will Notice

Passengers will see simpler tickets that work across bus, tram, and train. Contactless '*tap and go*' will be introduced at some stations from December 2026. Travel information will be easier to access through the Bee Network app, including live train times and disruption updates. Stations will also be improved with clearer signage, better information screens, and upgraded help points.

Accessibility Improvements

More stations are being made step-free, helping people travel more easily and independently.

What Has Already Improved



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Rail fares are now simpler and better value. Tickets can be used across trains, tram, and bus during disruption. More station and accessibility information is already available online and in the Bee Network app.

Why This Matters

These changes will make travel easier to understand and use, improve access to jobs and services, and create a more reliable and joined-up transport system for Greater Manchester communities.

Please Note

The information in this update is correct at the time of writing. However, plans for the Bee Network and Rail Integration are continuing to develop, and details may change as the programme progresses. We will share further updates as more information becomes available.



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