



TfGM Update Sept 2026 (v1)

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 Lift Renewal Programme

As part of a £1.7 million investment, TfGM is replacing lifts at eight Metrolink stops to improve accessibility. Work will take place in phases, with no more than two locations affected at any one time to minimise disruption. Each lift replacement is expected to take around six to nine weeks.

Heaton Park

The outbound (Bury-bound) lift at Heaton Park is being replaced until early October 2026. The Manchester-bound lift will remain available. Passengers requiring step-free access can continue their journey via nearby tram stops and change trams as required. The completion date has been extended from late September to early October due to delays in the supply of key materials.

Failsworth

The outbound (Rochdale-bound) lift at Failsworth is being replaced until 2 October 2026. The Manchester-bound lift will remain open, and a step-free track crossing will continue to provide access between platforms.

Additional Support Passengers requiring step-free access will be able to request a taxi transfer where necessary during the works. Taxis can be arranged by contacting TfGM Customer Services on 0161 244 1000, via the Help Points on tram platforms, or by calling 0161 244 0701 outside Customer Services opening hours.

What Happens Next?

Following Heaton Park and Failsworth, lift renewals are planned at:

- Hollinwood and Freehold
- Dane Road and Brooklands
- Chorlton and Firswood

Dates for these future phases will be confirmed and communicated in due course.

Metrolink Track Replacement Programme Continues This Autumn



The next phase of Metrolink's track replacement programme will take place between 19 October and 1 November, following preparatory works on Sunday 6 September between Deansgate-Castlefield and Trafford Bar.

During the October works, there will be no tram services on the Eccles, Trafford Centre and Altrincham lines. Services on the East Didsbury and Manchester Airport lines will terminate at Firswood, while Rochdale line services will terminate at Exchange Square.

Replacement buses will be available for Metrolink ticket holders between affected stops, with Bee Network bus services also available as an alternative. Normal tram services are expected to resume from Monday 2 November.

Stay Up to Date with Metrolink Improvement Works

If you are planning to travel on the Metrolink network, a dedicated webpage is available with information on all upcoming improvement and maintenance works.

The page provides full details of planned works, any service changes that may affect your journey, and alternative travel arrangements where applicable.

To find out more and view the latest information, please click [Tram improvement works and disruptions](#) | [Bee Network](#) | [Powered by TfGM](#) for more information.

Free Bus Travel at All Times for Disabled Pass Holders

On 18 August, the Prime Minister announced that the Government will remove the time restrictions currently applied to disabled bus passes.

From 1 April 2027, people with a disabled bus pass will be able to travel on local bus services free of charge at any time of the day.

At present, disabled bus passes are only valid between 09.30 and 23:00 on weekdays, unless a local authority chooses to fund additional travel concessions.

In Greater Manchester, for example, the Combined Authority permanently removed these time restrictions in March this year.

Supported by £60 million of Government funding, the change will extend all-day free bus travel for disabled pass holders across England.



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The aim is to improve access to work, education, training and leisure opportunities, while also helping to reduce the cost of living for disabled people.

Bee Network Set for Further Expansion

Bee Network improvements are planned over the coming months, including new and more frequent bus services, additional night buses and measures to make public transport more affordable.

Plans also include free bus travel for 11 to 16-year-olds from January 2027 and free school travel for children living in temporary accommodation from September 2026.

A full district-by-district breakdown of the planned changes is available for passengers who would like to see what improvements are coming to their local area, please check [Buses. But better. | Bee Network | Powered by TfGM](#) for more information.

Work Begins to Make Swinton Station Fully Accessible

Work has started on a £4.3 million project to make Swinton Station fully accessible for all passengers. Delivered by TfGM in partnership with Network Rail and Northern, the scheme forms part of a wider £100 million programme to improve accessibility across Greater Manchester's rail network.

The improvements will include a new lift providing step-free access to the platforms, a refurbished and more accessible ticket office, an accessible toilet with baby changing facilities, and upgraded lighting and CCTV.

The station will remain open and train services will continue to operate as normal during the works, which are expected to be completed by spring 2027. The ticket office will be closed until November 2026 while refurbishment takes place, but passengers can continue to buy tickets from station ticket machines, online, or from on-train staff.

Upcoming Events

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:

- **05 Sept:** Man City v Coventry, Etihad
- **05 Sept:** A\$AP Rocky, Co-op Live
- **06 Sept:** Manchester Storm vs Sheffield Steelers, AO Arena
- **10 Sept:** Evanescence, Co-op Live
- **11 Sept:** Andre Rieu, Co-op Live



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- **12 Sept:** Hilary Duff, AO Arena
- **16 Sept:** Spiritbox, Co-op Live
- **19 Sept:** Man City v Sunderland, Etihad
- **19 Sept:** England v Sri Lanka Cricket, Emirates Old Trafford
- **20 Sept:** Diljit Dosanjh, Co-op Live
- **25 Sept:** Niall Horan, Co-op Live

Transpennine Route Upgrade (TRU)

Due to the Gledholt Tunnel Blockade from 19 Sept to 04 Oct, the railway between Stalybridge and Heaton Lodge Junction will be **closed** for major engineering work.

Significant changes will apply to train services between Greater Manchester, Huddersfield and Yorkshire throughout the blockade period.

Passengers travelling between Greater Manchester and Yorkshire should allow extra time for their journey and check before travelling, as some services will be diverted, amended, shortened, cancelled or replaced by buses during the blockade.

Key changes include:

- No direct rail services will operate between Stalybridge and Huddersfield via the normal route. Rail replacement buses will operate to maintain connections.
- Many TPE services will be diverted via the Calder Valley route, operating through Rochdale, Todmorden, Hebden Bridge and Brighouse instead of the Diggle route.
- Some services between Piccadilly and Leeds/York will be amended, split, shortened or cancelled, including the withdrawal of additional peak Piccadilly to Leeds services.
- Stations including Stalybridge, Mossley, Greenfield and Marsden will continue to be served, although stopping patterns and frequencies may differ from normal.
- Additional services via the Calder Valley route will operate to support displaced passengers.

Passengers travelling between Greater Manchester and Leeds/Yorkshire should allow extra time for their journey and check before travelling due to changes to train services and replacement transport arrangements.



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Please check <https://www.tpexpress.co.uk/travel-updates/planned-engineering-work> or <https://thetrupgrade.co.uk/yourstation/upcomingclosures/> for more information.

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

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



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as the programme progresses. We will share further updates as more information becomes available.



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