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Balfour Beatty to build Metro New Street extension

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Balfour Beatty has been selected to extend the Midland Metro tram line through Birmingham city centre.

West Midlands passenger transport executive Centro has named the company preferred bidder to develop a best and final offer to extend the line from Birmingham Snow Hill to a new terminus at New Street. Morgan Sindall and Thomas Vale also bid for the contract.

The extension is part of a £127m project to upgrade and extend the Metro system with a fleet of 20 new trams and extended maintenance depot at Wednesbury.

Scheduled for completion in 2015 with major work starting on street in early 2013, the extension will see trams follow a route from the existing stop at St Paul's via a new Snow Hill stop and then along a £9m viaduct already built and funded by developer Ballymore. Trams will then continue down Upper Bull Street, Corporation Street and on to Stephenson Street, stopping outside a new entrance at a rebuilt New Street station.

Centro chief executive Geoff Inskip said: "We worked with Balfour Beatty last year when they built the Metro bridge for us over Great Charles Street. That was a clear demonstration of their proven track record in delivering projects on budget and on time."

Bill Gifford, regional managing director for Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering, added: "We are delighted to be working with Centro to help deliver this important scheme for the city. We have built an excellent relationship with Centro which will continue and help ensure the successful delivery of this prestigious scheme."

Balfour Beatty's appointment concludes main procurement for the Metro upgrade with CAF already named to build the new trams (TB 8458) and Morgan Sindall now working on the £13m maintenance depot extension.

Work on the extension will be completed alongside the Gateway redevelopment of New Street station with new Metro stops designed to complement the station upgrade and proposed new bus interchange facilities being built in the city centre this summer. Platform modifications will be made at stops along the existing line.

Midland Metro: extension will run from St Paul's via new Snow Hill stop to New Street



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