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# TRANSPORT

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## Tram extensions mooted to unlock Birmingham HS2

Posted 28/11/12

West Midlands transport authority Centro is drawing up plans to extend the region's Metro tram line to provide links to a central Birmingham High Speed 2 station.

Proposals are currently being developed to use the Birmingham city centre extension (Snow Hill to New Street) now under construction by building a spur leading from Upper Bull Street across to Moor Street station next to the site earmarked for a Birmingham city centre HS2 station.

Plans are also progressing to take the line from Snow Hill to the rebuilt New Street station, which is due to be completed in 2015, on through Paradise Circus to Centenary Square. These extensions are backed by the HS2 Local Connectivity Group which represents local authorities and businesses.

A meeting of Centro on 3 December will discuss a number of schemes designed to release the maximum benefits from high speed rail in the West Midlands. Work is also underway on introducing Sprint - a bus rapid transit system using tram-style vehicles to connect Eastside, Moor Street, New Street and the Broad Street area. Further details of this Local Connectivity Package will be published in early 2013.

Although Birmingham is poised to get a High Speed 2 station near Moor Street, critics have pointed out that this is on the outskirts of the main shopping district and too far from New Street, the city's main railway station, to allow easy interchange.

Centro chief executive Geoff Inskip said: "Construction is underway on the Metro extension from Snow Hill to New Street. Our challenge is to get the best from HS2 for people throughout the West Midlands and Metro is an essential part of that."

*Midland Metro: extension plans include spur to Moor Street and link to Centenary Square*



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