

Edinburgh tram line opening slated for May 2014

Posted 17/09/13

City of Edinburgh Council has announced that tram services in the city will begin by the end of May 2013.

The council says the start date is two months earlier than its summer 2014 target - although the project remains years behind earlier schedules for the project. When funding was allocated for the scheme trams were due to start running in 2009 (TB 0155). There remains a possibility that trams could be operational before May 2014.

A section of the route between the Gogar depot and Edinburgh Park station will be handed over by contractors for testing in early October with full route testing set to take place during December.

After years of tram-related disruption in Edinburgh city centre streets will be cleared of civil engineering works by October with Haymarket (Dalry Road to Manor Place) now set to reopen to traffic around 12 October and Shandwick Place to open the following week. The return of traffic to the West End and Haymarket follows the early reopening of York Place in early September, St Andrew Square in April and Princes Street at the end of 2012.

Transport Convener Lesley Hinds said: "Within weeks the city centre will be clear of tram works for the first time in six years - the end of the tram project and the beginning of a tram service are clearly in sight.

"Our target for launch is now May 2014 but we'll bring this forward if we can and we'll announce a start date for the tram service when we're 100% sure. There's a major testing, commissioning and driver training programme to be done, work to be done on tram stops and, of course, a Scottish winter to get through."

The testing phase between the Gogar depot and Edinburgh Park station and subsequent full route testing will see more than 150 tram test journeys per weekday. Ahead of December a city-wide safety and awareness campaign will be launched as trams will be running through the city centre.

According to the council the project remains in line with the revised budget (£776m) approved by the in September 2011 with work either ahead of schedule or in line with the revised timescale reported in December 2011.

Last month the council set out plans to create a new organisation, Transport for Edinburgh, to integrate transport services in the capital (TB 9546). Transport for Edinburgh will be set up initially to integrate bus and tram services in the city with Lothian Buses and Edinburgh Trams confirmed as the operators.

The latest update was contained in a report to council that will be considered on Thursday 26 September. A further progress report will be made to council in January 2014 providing the completion target date for the infraco (Siemens/Bilfinger Berger) and CAF contract and reporting on the

Street strife: after six years major works in city centre are due to be completed by November



RELATED ARTICLES

[Edinburgh tram fares integrated with buses](#)
[Transport for Edinburgh gets tram and bus role](#)
[Spend on Edinburgh tram project passes £728m](#)
[Edinburgh transport changes consultation launched](#)
[Edinburgh tram line section handed over by BBS](#)
[Parkeon turns tables on Almex to win tram deal](#)
[Edinburgh tram line powers up first section](#)
[Tram line emerges as Edinburgh project advances](#)
[£5m package to make good abandoned tram route](#)
[Major Edinburgh tram street works to resume](#)

Edinburgh Trams target for the start of revenue service.

 [News index](#)  [Front page](#)

[Front page](#) [News & analysis](#) [Intelligence & resources](#) [Agenda & monitors](#) **[Subscribe](#)** [About](#)

Transport Briefing is published by [Acumen Intelligence Ltd](#). Unless otherwise specified all content © Acumen Intelligence 2013.
We've been writing about transport infrastructure since 2002 - we also produce the [Crossrailnews](#) and [HS2 News](#) websites.
Contact Transport Briefing: email editor@transportbriefing.co.uk Follow us on Twitter [@transportb](#).