



Major Line Closure 16-29 July 2022: What you need to know

What has been announced?

A major programme of modernisation work will close a section of the Tyne and Wear Metro from St James to Tynemouth for fourteen days.

How will the Metro system be affected by this?

From Saturday 16 July to Friday 29 July there will be no Metro services operating between St James and Tynemouth in either direction.

When will the line re-open?

Services between St James and Tynemouth will resume on Saturday 30 July.

Will there be a replacement bus service?

No. You will still be able to make your journey as the following bus services will be accepting Metro tickets and passes. For more details on the services or for help planning your journey use the Live Travel Map or call 0191 20 20 747 (lines open Monday-Friday, 9.00am-5.00pm).

Bus services accepting Metro tickets and passes 16-29 July		
1	22	306
12	39/40	310
19	62/63	317

Why is the line closure required?

Tanners Bank bridge is to be completely removed and a new bridge constructed in its place. This is necessary as the existing bridge is a Victorian structure at the end of its life.

Other secondary maintenance work will also take place all the way to Newcastle city centre, including large-scale vegetation clearing and overhead power line replacement, to make sure we're using the closure to maximum effect.

What are the benefits of the work?

The new bridge will have a higher deck, which will allow improved access to the Fish Quay for business (HGVs) and leisure/connectivity (double decker buses). The risk of vehicles striking the new bridge (causing major Metro disruption) will be greatly reduced. There will also a reduction in ongoing maintenance costs.

The old bridge has a lot of heritage value, can it be saved or re-used?

The overall structure, and cast-iron material of the bridge makes it hard to re-use. The bridge is not a 'listed' structure. However, Nexus will preserve part of the heritage value by retaining the key central 'badged' section for the Stephenson Railway Museum, keeping it in North Tyneside.

How has the bridge replacement been funded?

Most of the funding has come from the Department for Transport with the assistance of North Tyneside Council. Nexus have also contributed funds to the project.

Why can't the work be done on an evening or over weekends?

Due to the nature and large scale of the bridge replacement, it's not possible to carry out the work on an evening or over a weekend.

Will I get a discount on my Metro travel pass?

No. Discounts will not be offered on the passes.

Where will trains be running?

Trains will still be running between the following locations, but some trains may not be running to usual timetable – please check before travelling:

- Airport - South Hylton
- Tynemouth – Newcastle - South Shields (via Four Lane Ends)

Will my journey take longer?

Possibly, yes. Please leave additional travelling time. In the areas where trains are running there will be some reductions in service frequencies.

Where can I get help to plan my journey/get train or bus times?

Use the Live Travel Map or call 0191 20 20 747 (lines are open Monday-Friday, 9.00am-5.00pm).

Will there be site compounds used?

Yes. One will be next to Tanners Bank on Tynemouth Road in North Shields. A secondary compound will be near to Chillingham Road station.

Will there be impacts on traffic?

Tanners Bank will be closed under the Metro bridge for eight weeks (20 June to 12 August), to all road vehicles and pedestrians. During this period, car parking along Tynemouth Road near the bridge will be suspended.

Tynemouth Road will be closed to all road vehicles next to the bridge, for two weeks (16 July to 29 July). Pedestrians and cyclists will be able to access the road.

Suitable diversion routes for road users and pedestrians have been created and will be signposted.

Will people living next to Metro lines be affected?

Residents living near to the Metro line may experience some noise, and an increase in overnight activity by project teams.

Nexus will do all we can to keep disturbance to a minimum. If you have any questions or concerns about the work taking place, please contact Customer Relations 0191 20 20 747 or email customerrelations@nexus.org.uk