



Metrolink into Didsbury



Didsbury Metrolink stops
Consultation - Autumn 1999

Foreword

Councillor Joe Clarke
Chairman, Greater Manchester Passenger
Transport Authority



Metrolink is one of the great transport success stories of Greater Manchester. It is frequent, reliable, quick and convenient. Many people now use it in preference to their cars. We have obtained powers to bring Metrolink to Didsbury so that more people and businesses can share in the benefits. We are now consulting on proposals for tram stops for the route from Didsbury to Stockport. We believe this will strengthen the case for the line to Didsbury.

As part of this process we would like your views on where Metrolink should stop on the route that has already been approved through Chorlton as far as Didsbury. Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority will consider all comments received from the general public, interested groups and statutory bodies, including Manchester City Council. We greatly value your comments and are eager to hear from you.

Chris Mulligan
Director General, GMPTE



We believe that Metrolink would bring an exciting new transport system to residents in Chorlton and Didsbury. However, we are keen to hear where you think trams should stop. We will listen carefully to any views expressed.

We are separately consulting on a new route from East Didsbury to Stockport. If, after full public consultation, the Authority decides to seek powers to build this section, a Public Inquiry would almost certainly be held where those local residents affected would have a more formal opportunity to make their views known.

We hold powers already to build Metrolink as far as East Didsbury, but we feel that a route all the way to Stockport will provide the extra passengers that would make it much more likely that Metrolink will be built to East Didsbury.

Who's who?

Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority

This is the body responsible for setting the policy framework for the development of public transport in Greater Manchester. The Authority comprises 33 councillors appointed by the 10 district councils which make up Greater Manchester.

GMPTE

GMPTE puts the Authority's policies into practice. This role includes planning future development of the public transport network.

Manchester City Council

Manchester City Council is the Local Planning and Highway Authority for the consultation. The new stops need to be consistent with their policies on traffic management, environment and planning matters.

Introduction

GMPTe was granted powers by Parliament in 1991 to build Metrolink as far as East Didsbury. The Didsbury line would branch off from the existing Altrincham Metrolink line at Trafford Bar and share the proposed Airport Metrolink extension route as far as Chorlton. It would then carry on south east along the former railway through Didsbury Village to end at East Didsbury.

This part of the route will be on the former railway trackbed. It would not be necessary to acquire any houses or commercial properties to build the line.

The extension would form part of a network serving places as diverse as Manchester city centre, Bury, Altrincham, Salford Quays and Eccles. Future extensions, already authorised, will bring Oldham, Rochdale, Ashton-under-Lyne and Manchester Airport and possibly Trafford Park on to the network. Opportunities for jobs, leisure and shopping would be revolutionised. The experience of the existing Metrolink system also suggests that many car journeys would be saved as drivers choose to take Metrolink instead of their cars.

Separately we are looking to see if there would be a way to extend the line from Didsbury to Stockport. This would serve major residential areas as well as Stockport town centre and this would provide the passengers that would strengthen the case for building Metrolink to Didsbury. We are currently consulting with Stockport residents and businesses on these proposals.

The consultation

While the proposed route of Metrolink between Chorlton and East Didsbury has been established for many years we would like to consult in more detail with local people on the most appropriate locations for stops.

GMPTe would like to know your views. This consultation brochure explains the proposals and has been distributed to thousands of households in the area. Public exhibitions are being held.

GMPTe will listen closely to all the comments made at exhibitions, by letter, by e-mail and by telephone. In keeping with the Authority's policy on full consultation, all comments will be reported to Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority.

Finding out more

Other information available includes:

- Large scale plans showing extra detail about all the proposed stops
- Government booklets that outline your rights include:

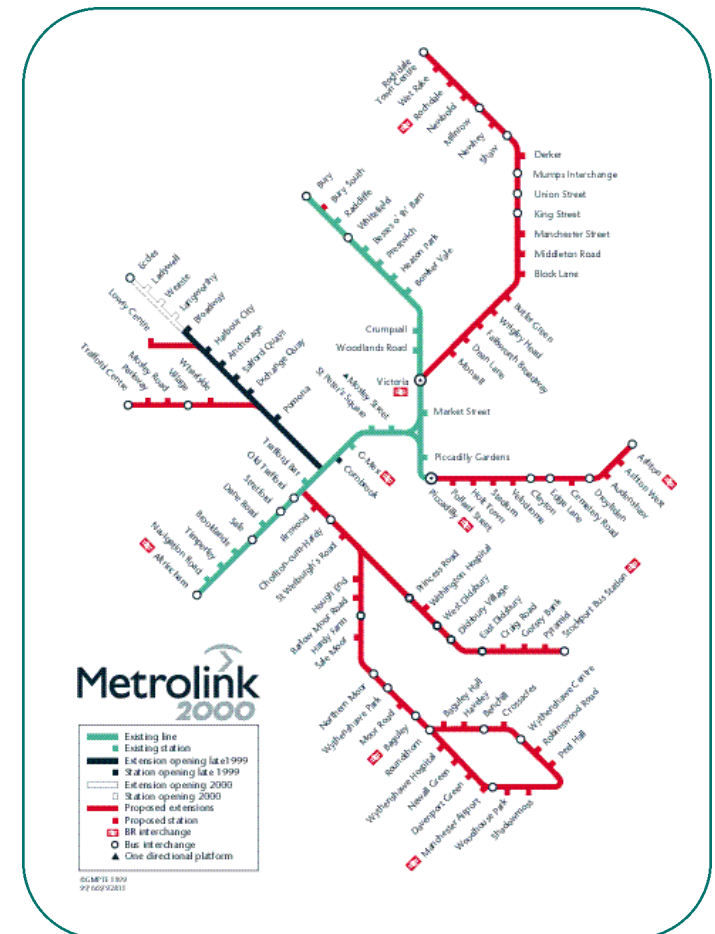
Your Home and Nuisance from Public Development
Your Business and Public Development
Insulation against Traffic Noise

These are available from the Consultation Hotline on 0161-242 6777

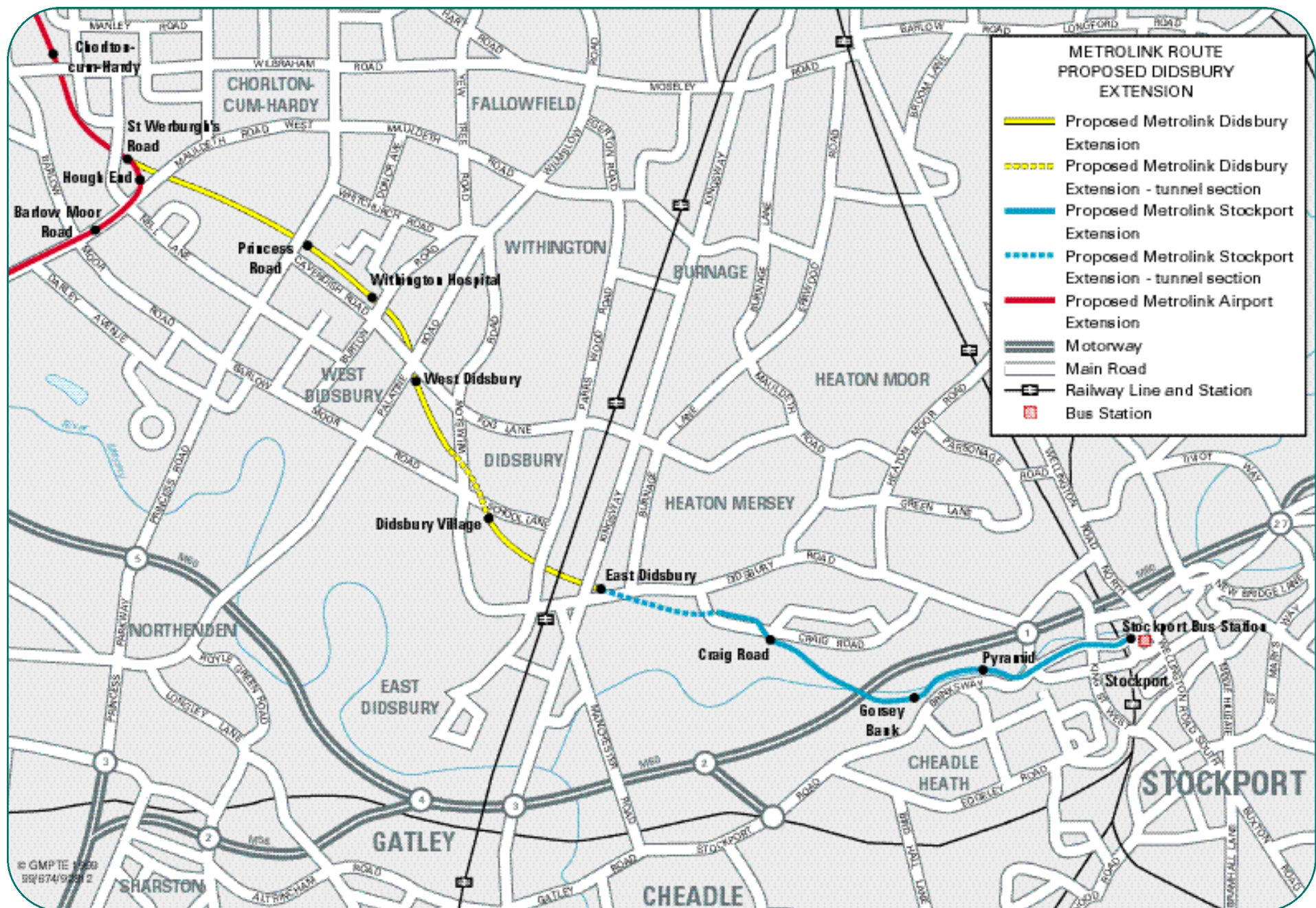
It is emphasised that we do not need to acquire any houses or commercial properties to build the route through Chorlton and Didsbury.

Further copies of this brochure and response sheets are also available from the Consultation Hotline

Metrolink into Didsbury



Route map



Individual stops

St Werburgh's Road

This stop would serve the local residential area. It is also on the proposed Metrolink Airport extension, so passengers could change between Stockport/Didsbury and Airport trams.

Princess Road

This stop would be close to bus routes and residential properties east of Princess Road. The houses off Arrowfield Road would be a short walk away.

Withington Hospital

This would be near Burton Road and serve the shops on this road as well as the hospital site.

West Didsbury

This stop would be built near Palatine Road. It would serve the local residential area as well as allowing passengers to interchange between buses and trams.

Didsbury Village

The stop would be sited due south of School Lane. This would be close to Didsbury village centre and housing areas to the east.

East Didsbury

This stop would be in the cutting to the east of Kingsway, serving a large number of houses in the East Didsbury and Heaton Mersey areas, as well as shopping and leisure facilities.

Your views

Selecting the right number of stops and the right places is very important for the success of Metrolink. We have looked at all the places it would be physically possible to build stops, and rated them for the number of people they would serve, how easy they are to get to, personal safety, cost and ease of construction, and environmental factors.

We would like to know if you think our proposals would result in safe and convenient stop locations you would use by choice.

Stops are suggested to be best located at:

- St Werburgh's Road
- Princess Road
- Withington Hospital / Burton Road
- West Didsbury
- Didsbury Village
- East Didsbury

What happens next?

All comments received will be studied carefully and together with any comments made by Manchester City Council, reported to Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority.

The Authority will then have to decide, taking into account the views expressed at the consultation and the views of Manchester City Council, if any changes to the proposed stop locations are needed.

At the end of this process planning permission for the preferred stops would be sought from Manchester City Council at the appropriate time.

Funding

The line cannot be built until funding has been obtained. Presently the Authority, through its Local Transport Plan, is seeking funding for its Metrolink extension programme.

Answers to other questions you may have

Will my property be affected?

The route from Manchester to East Didsbury has already been approved. It will follow the former railway line from Trafford Bar through Chorlton to East Didsbury. We will not need to buy/acquire any houses or commercial properties for this section.

Will Metrolink reduce my property values?

We believe quite the opposite as there is no evidence that Metrolink reduces property values. Indeed, if Metrolink is built it would be much easier to travel to Manchester city centre and Stockport. However, any owners of domestic property who think their home has lost value as a result of Metrolink may submit a claim one year after the scheme opens under Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973. A leaflet that explains your rights can be obtained from the Consultation Hotline on 0161-242 6777.

Is Metrolink safe?

Metrolink meets all the safety standards set by the relevant authorities including the Health and Safety Executive, central government and Greater Manchester Police as well as the local authorities and has an excellent safety record. An educational campaign would be launched in local schools before construction started, particularly to help primary school children understand Metrolink. The final decision on safety rests with the Health and Safety Executive. Trams would only be allowed to run if the new line is considered safe for everyone. The line would be fenced.

Will Metrolink be noisy?

As Metrolink uses electric motors and runs on new track without any joints it is quiet. Houses not directly next to the route are unlikely to hear any increase in noise. If any increase in noise is predicted for houses next to the route, the impact would be reduced, probably by providing solid, noise-absorbing fences.

What happens to the existing paths in the railway cutting?

Existing rights of way such as footpaths and cycling routes in the cutting would be rebuilt. Paths would need to be closed or diverted during construction, but we would try to reduce any inconvenience as far as possible.

What about wildlife and trees?

Whilst it will not be possible to keep any of the trees along the former trackbed, we would protect as many trees as possible in the cutting. No vegetation would be removed during the bird nesting season and the contractor would be required to follow a strict Code of Construction Practice to reduce the impact on wildlife.

Continuous liaison would be maintained with statutory and non-statutory bodies concerned with wildlife and the environment in the design of the scheme. GMPTE is therefore confident that impacts on the local environment would not prove detrimental for wildlife.

What about construction?

There will inevitably be some short-term disruption during construction. GMPTE will make a Code of Construction Practice binding on the scheme contractor. This will specify many aspects of construction, including hours of working, access routes for lorries, levels of noise, dust, and many other issues.

Finding out more

If you want to know:

- more about what we are proposing than you have in this booklet
- details about other public transport schemes in the area

you can:

- contact us on our Consultation Hotline
0161-242 6777, Monday to Friday 9am to 4.30pm
- write in to GMPTE at the address below
- e-mail us on light.rail@gmpte.gov.uk
- come to one of our exhibitions

To request this leaflet to be sent to you in large print, Braille or on tape

0161-228 7811

Lines open 8am - 8pm



Textphone users may also use this number



**Greater
Manchester
Passenger
Transport
Authority
& Executive**

9 Portland Street
Piccadilly Gardens
Manchester
M60 1HX

Telephone 0161-242 6000
Facsimile 0161-228 3291

A free interpreting service is available if you need help with this information. Please telephone Stockport English Language Service on 0161-958 3355

এই তথ্যের ব্যাপারে আপনার যদি কোন সাহায্য সহযোগিতার দরকার হয় তবে আপনার জন্য বিনা খরচে দো-ভাষীর ব্যবস্থা করা হবে। দয়াকরে স্টকপোর্ট ইংলিশ ল্যাংগুয়েজ সার্ভিসে 0161 958 3355 এই নাম্বারে ফোন করুন।

اگر آپ کو اس معلومات کے بارے میں مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو مفت ترجمانی کی سروس دستیاب ہے۔ براہ مہربانی سٹاکپورٹ انگلش لیٹنگ سروس کو 0161 958 3355 پر فون کریں۔

如你需要他人為你解釋這份資料的內容，我們可提供免費的傳譯服務，請致電史托模英語服務：0161 958 3355

تتوفر خدمة ترجمة شفوية مجانية إذا تطلبت مساعدة في فهم هذه المعلومات. نرجو الاتصال بخدمة تعليم اللغة الانجليزية في ستوكبورت على رقم الهاتف: 0161 958 3355

આ માહિતી સમજવા માટે મદદની જરૂર હોય તો વિનામૂલ્યે ઇન્ટરપ્રીટીંગ (દુભાષિયા)ની સેવા ઉપલબ્ધ છે. મહેરબાની કરીને સ્ટોકપોર્ટ ઇંગ્લીશ લેન્ગ્વેજ સર્વિસનો 0161 958 3355 ઉપર સંપર્ક કરો.

यदि आपको इस जानकारी को समझने में मदद की आवश्यकता है तो आपके लिये नि:शुल्क अनुवादक की सर्विस उपलब्ध है। कृपया स्टॉकपोर्ट इंग्लिश लैंग्विज सर्विस को 0161 958 3355 नम्बर पर फोन कीजिये।

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