

# AN INFRASTRUCTURE REVOLUTION

A high-speed train, white with red and black accents, is shown traveling on a track that curves through a lush green landscape. The train has 'Metro' branding and a circular logo on its side. The background features rolling hills, trees, and a clear sky with some clouds.

## SOUTH WALES METRO AN INTEGRATED PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM

Public transport in South Wales is limited, with slow and infrequent services affecting visitors and local residents. Different modes of transport are also poorly integrated and many people are forced to rely on private cars, resulting in increased journey times, greater costs, and higher emissions per capita than other parts of the UK.

The **South Wales Metro** represents the biggest upgrade to public transport in the region for generations and will benefit the local population, attract economic investment, and significantly contribute to Wales' net zero objectives.

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## WHAT IS THE SOUTH WALES METRO?

The South Wales Metro is an integrated public transport system that will transform services in the Cardiff Capital Region of Wales. It consists of major works across three main areas:

- **Rail:** Five new stations will be built and all existing stations across the region will be upgraded, extending the current network and electrifying over 100 miles of existing track, making journeys quicker and greener.
- **Bus:** Priority bus services will be fully integrated with the rail network, allowing people living in more remote areas to easily switch between different modes of transport.
- **Infrastructure:** A new depot for Transport for Wales will be built in the Taff's Well area north of Cardiff to service the rolling stock of Metro vehicles.

Works began in 2019 and the project is estimated to be completed in 2024 at a total cost of £750 million.



### Delivering an Infrastructure Revolution

Whilst economic and social infrastructure projects are often in the headlines due to the amount of money spent on them and the disruption caused during their construction, they generate huge long-term benefits. By providing better local services, new jobs, cleaner air and faster connections, modern infrastructure helps to level up opportunity and prosperity across the UK.

**Build UK's factsheets** cover a range of local and national projects explaining what they are and why they are being built in Britain today.





## WHY WE NEED THE SOUTH WALES METRO

The South Wales Metro will unlock economic growth across the Cardiff Capital Region by providing faster and more reliable connections, particularly to areas like Monmouthshire and the South Wales Valleys. Once completed, it will:

- Double the capacity of the existing public transport network, allowing more passengers to travel in and out of the region
- Add £270 million per year to the regional economy and support the creation of 7,000 jobs
- Enable the construction of 5,000 new homes by bringing dozens of regional towns within commuting distance of Cardiff
- Significantly reduce reliance on motor vehicles for personal transport, helping to cut carbon emissions and meet the country's long-term net zero targets.

## SOUTH WALES METRO IN NUMBERS



**£750m**  
estimated investment



**100**  
miles of electrified track



**7,000**  
new jobs

## KEY ISSUES

- An estimated 50,000 properties lie within 200 metres of the railway lines being upgraded, and **disruption** is anticipated for the duration of the works. A package of measures has been introduced to minimise the impact on the local community, and much of the works will take place at night to reduce disruption to existing services. When closure of the railways is unavoidable, replacement bus services will run.
- Concerns have been raised about the impact of construction on the **local environment** and the biodiversity of the region. Transport for Wales is working closely with Natural Resources Wales to make sure construction is carried out in the least disruptive way for wildlife, and all trees cut down during construction will be replaced by planting new ones.

# WHO WILL BENEFIT?

## The Economy

- The Welsh Government's targets for the Cardiff Capital Region include delivering an additional £4 billion to the economy over 30 years, with a further £4 billion generated during the construction phase alone. This will result in the creation of over 7,000 jobs, providing a substantial boost to an area that currently only delivers 80% of the UK average for economic output
- The population of the region is increasing, with Cardiff alone expected to grow by 22% by 2030, and substantial investment in infrastructure is needed to avoid it being left behind other parts of the UK
- Tourism in South East Wales will receive a significant boost from improved access in and out of Cardiff and longer duration stays from the rest of the UK as a result of the improved links to the wider Capital Region.

## The Local Community

- Better connections for local residents will help remove barriers to employment in the region, while enhancing access to schools, hospitals, and retail centres
- Station developments have been carefully designed to act as centrepieces in their local communities, with the resulting growth in footfall expected to stimulate the high street economy.

## The Environment

- Road-based transport in South East Wales accounts for 24% of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions generated by transport in Wales. Shifting people onto greener public transport like the South Wales Metro will significantly reduce emissions and contribute to the Welsh Government's net zero objectives by 2050.

## Further Information

Savills (2019) [Cardiff: Connecting the City](#)

Transport for Wales (2019) [Low Carbon Impact Strategy](#)

Welsh Government (2013) [Metro: Impact Study - Executive Summary](#)

Welsh Government (2013) [Metro: Impact Study: Regeneration and The Metro](#)

Welsh Government (2013) [Metro: Impact Study: Metro Economic Impacts](#)

Welsh Government (2016) [South Wales Metro Brochure](#)

Welsh Government (2013) [South Wales Metro Impact Study](#)

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