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Metrolink time capsule preserves a snapshot of today for tomorrow

A time capsule buried near the new-look St Peter's Square Metrolink stop will give future generations a glimpse of Greater Manchester in 2016.



As work draws to a close on the new [Metrolink Second City Crossing](#) – and the major redevelopment of St Peter's Square – Manchester icons have come together to preserve a piece of today to create memories for tomorrow.

A specially engraved paving slab with a tram and time themed design, inspired by local school pupils, will mark the burial site outside Central Library.

Local newspapers will nestle alongside theatre programmes, photographs and local sporting memorabilia in the time capsule, together with a unique 3D printed bespoke

sculpture inspired by the Metrolink Second City Crossing and especially composed pieces of music.

Representatives of Transport for Greater Manchester, Manchester City Council and Metrolink contractor M-Pact Thales (MPT) joined local schoolchildren and contributing organisations to bury the time capsule today.

Councillor Andrew Fender, Chair of the TfGM Committee, said: “Metrolink is a just one among many Manchester icons and this time capsule really does capture a snapshot of the city at the beginning of the 21st century.

“We don’t know how future generations will be travelling, but however they get from A to B, I’m sure they’ll find all the items we’ve preserved in this historic Manchester square fascinating.”

Metrolink Director Peter Cushing said: “The Second City Crossing is just part of a wider multi-million pound transport package that heralds a major period of growth for the city region and the North.

“It’s great to freeze this moment in time for future generations at this pivotal point in time for city region.”

Councillor Rosa Battle, Manchester City Council’s Executive Member for Environment, said: “I love the idea that a time capsule freezes a moment in time for future generations and it will be a timely reminder, when the capsule is prised open, of how much Manchester has changed.

“St Peter’s Square will no doubt be a key public space in the years to come and documenting its transformation now will be a fascinating insight for future Mancunians.”

Sarah Barnes, MPT's senior environmental advisor said: "our design and construction team thoroughly enjoyed working in partnership with local schools on the time-capsule project.

"The creativity and imagination of the pupils can be seen in the design of the specially engraved paving slab. We hope that the time capsule provides a legacy for the people of Manchester long after the construction is complete."

The [first test-trams](#) ran along the new Metrolink Second City Crossing last week, marking the start of a testing and commissioning programme before services open to passengers in early 2017.

The new line, through the heart of Manchester city centre, will allow Metrolink to run more frequent tram services through the city centre and across the 93-stop network.

It will also allow greater operational flexibility and improve service reliability by offering a second route through the city, connecting the expanded St Peter's Square stop with Exchange Square and Victoria Station via Princess Street and Cross Street.

Organisations representing Manchester's sports, education, news, culture and the public and private sectors have donated to the time capsule and electronic archive of contents on record at Manchester Central Library.

They include the Bridgewater Hall, BBC, Central Library, Chetham's Music School, ITV, Lancashire County Cricket Club, Latz, MPT, Manchester Evening News, Manchester City FC, Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester United FC, Marketing Manchester, The Midland, MOSI, Royal Exchange, TfGM and The Whitworth.

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Notes to Editors

1. Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) is the transport delivery arm for Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and its Transport for Greater Manchester Committee (TfGMC).

2. TfGM oversees transport and travel across Greater Manchester, home of the UK's largest regional economy outside London and a diverse population of over 2.7 million people.

3. TfGM:

- is responsible for delivering the Greater Manchester Transport Fund, a £1.5bn transport investment package which will drive economic growth and create 21,000 new jobs.
- owns and manages the Metrolink network, which currently covers 60 miles and has 93 stops across seven lines – hosting 36 million passenger journeys every year.
- is delivering the Second City Metrolink Crossing – which is currently under construction in Manchester city centre – and is working on preparations for the new Trafford Park line.
- is responsible for the bus priority package which is improving bus links between Leigh, Atherton, Salford, Middleton and Parris Wood and Manchester city centre.
- builds, maintains and staffs bus stations and interchanges, and installs and maintains 12,000 bus stops and 4,000 shelters in partnership with JCDecaux.
- works closely with 30+ bus operators to ensure high quality services in the right places.
- is a key partner in Rail North – calling for increased rail devolution for the north of England, and is working to prepare for HS2 and in the £1bn+ North of England programme.

- manages the road network and co-ordinates maintenance, investment and strategic modelling to keep traffic flowing, as well as installing and maintaining traffic signals.
- is overseeing an investment of more than £40m into cycle routes and facilities through the Cycle City programme, alongside a wide-ranging programme of cycling information, education and training.
- works with Job Centres, job-seekers and local businesses to encourage sustainable commuting.

4. For more information, visit www.tfgm.com.