

Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Extension

Transport and Works Act 1992

The Transport and Works

(Applications and Objections Procedure)

(England and Wales) Rules 2006



Concise Statement of Aims

Transport and Works Act 1992

Transport and Works (Applications and Objections Procedure) (England and Wales) Rules 2006 – Rule 10(2)(c)

The Midland Metro (Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Land Acquisition) Order

CONCISE STATEMENT OF THE AIMS OF THE PROPOSALS

1. Introduction

The West Midlands Combined Authority (“WMCA”) is a statutory body established by the West Midlands Combined Authority Order 2016 (S.I.2016/653) under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2016. It is the successor body to the West Midlands Passenger Transport Executive.

In 2005, the Secretary of State for Transport made the Midland Metro (Wednesbury to Brierley Hill and Miscellaneous Amendments) Order¹ (“the 2005 Order”). The 2005 Order authorised the construction and maintenance by the West Midlands Passenger Transport Executive of an extension to Line 1 of the Metro system in Sandwell and Dudley (“the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Extension” (“WBHE”)) from the existing Line 1 depot at Wednesbury to Brierley Hill via Dudley Town Centre. It also provided for powers of compulsory acquisition for the purposes of the scheme and included protective provisions for specified bodies.

Discharge of the relevant pre-commencement planning conditions for the WBHE as authorised by the 2005 Order have begun. However, the powers of compulsory acquisition conferred by the 2005 Order expired in March 2010.

The proposed Midland Metro (Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Land Acquisition) Order, the subject of this application, would confer further powers of compulsory acquisition on the WMCA for the works authorised by the 2005 Order. This document is a concise statement of the aims of the WBHE scheme and has been produced as one of the documents required to be submitted with the application for the above-named Order under Rule 10(2)(c) of the Transport and Works (Applications and Objections Procedure) (England and Wales) Rules 2006.

2. Need for the WBHE

The need for the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Extension was established by the making of the 2005 Order.

¹ (S.I. 2005 No. 927)

3. Aims of the WBHE

The WBHE is intended to meet the aims of the WMCA and the Black Country Local Economic Partnership (BCLEP) relating to transport in the Black Country, to achieve first-class international, national, regional and local connectivity. The aims of the WBHE support both national and local policies for growth and investment and are enumerated below. It also forms part of a package of works that are supported and funded by the Government in order to maximise the benefits of investment in HS2.

1. Transport Policy

The WBHE will achieve a number of goals set by the West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan, the West Midlands Local Transport Plan (WMLTP), the Black Country Core Strategy and the Dudley Area Action Plan. The project aims to encourage modal shift from private car by delivering a high quality and reliable public transport service. The project will deliver a high quality public transport service in a manner that supports local environmental and safety benefits and supports an integrated transport network through providing seamless interchange.

The WMLTP, together with the HS2 Connectivity Packages published by WMCA and GBSLEP, all aim to maximise the benefits of HS2 for the West Midlands. Whilst by itself the WBHE will be unlikely to enhance the benefits of HS2, the scheme is part of a wider network plan to connect as wide an area as possible to the planned HS2 station at Curzon Street by a direct Midland Metro service.

2. Economic Policy

By linking the areas along the WBHE corridor to major development sites in Birmingham City Centre, both to the east and west of the core, and to key transport hubs such as New Street and Snow Hill Stations the WBHE project will support regeneration in areas of high deprivation through improved connectivity with areas of opportunity. It will also support economic development by improving the accessibility of major employment and residential sites, enhancing the prosperity of Black Country residents through providing better access to employment and businesses by securing access to a wider workforce.

3. Social Policy

The increased connectivity delivered by the WBHE will improve the education and skill base of the residents of Sandwell and Dudley by providing wider access to universities and colleges throughout the West Midlands. In addition, it is clear that the social benefits of the scheme are well aligned with local policy priorities: the WMLTP's aims to 'improve public health and safety', 'tackle deprivation and worklessness and 'enhance well-being and quality of life' are all served by this scheme.