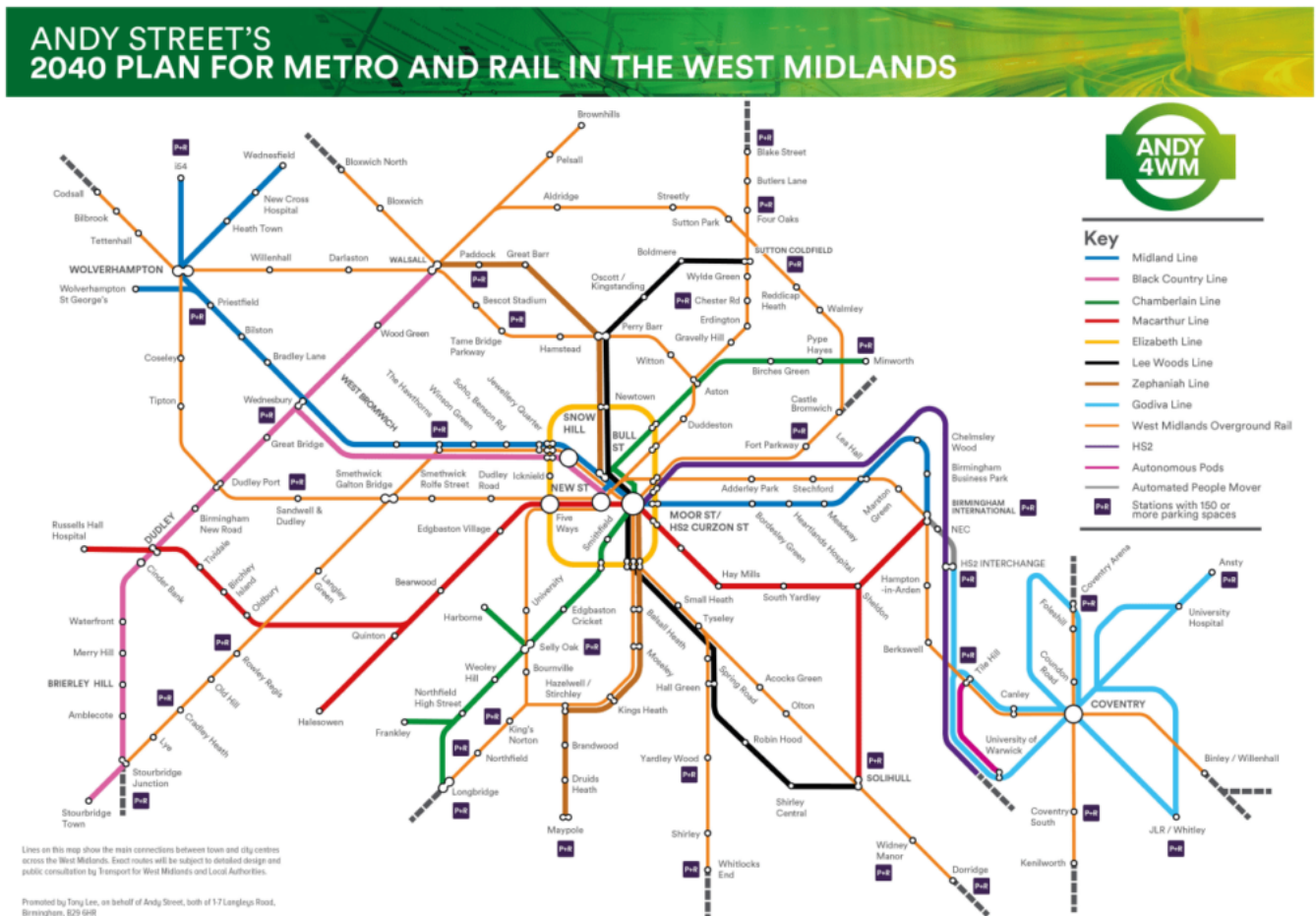


Andy Street unveils his £15 billion 20-year Plan for Metro and Rail in the West Midlands

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Andy Street has unveiled a 'Tube-style map of the West Midlands', outlining his twenty-year ambition for Metro and rail lines in the region.

As part of his plans Andy, who serves as the current Mayor of the West Midlands, wants to open eight new Metro lines and 21 new rail stations across the West Midlands by 2040.

On the Metro, Andy wants to build over 150 miles of new lines and around 380 new stops, and, in addition to the trams running on roads and on rail lines, he wants to have sections of the line running underground, using 'cut and cover' tunnelling to allow traffic to drive above the Metro line where there is not enough space on narrower roads.

In Coventry, new technology such as 'very light rail' trams and driverless autonomous pods would be used to connect key sites such as the University of Warwick, Jaguar Land Rover, Ansty and the City Centre.

Existing rail plans to re-open the Camp Hill line (Moseley, Kings Heath and Hazelwell / Stirchley) and the

Walsall to Wolverhampton line (Darlaston and Willenhall) have already been designed in detail and are at planning stage.

New plans announced today would make a total of 21 new stations in the West Midlands by 2040, including re-opening the Sutton Park Line starting with Aldridge station, re-opening Pelsall and Brownhills stations, and building a new station at Tettenhall. In Coventry, there are plans for four new stations at Coundon Road, Foleshill, Coventry South and Binley / Willenhall, and there are plans for new Birmingham stations in Balsall Heath and at Dudley Road.

The total cost of these plans would be around £15 billion, or around £750 million per year for the next twenty years. These costs would be met by additional funding from central Government, contributions from housing and commercial developers and borrowing against the future income from ticket sales on the Metro.

Andy Street, the former Managing Director of leading retailer John Lewis, said: “For too long we have been left behind London and Manchester, and other cities around the world. We are a world-class city region and we deserve a world-class Metro and rail network.

“In recent years we have made great progress completing the Metro extension to Centenary Square on time and on budget, and bringing the plans for the new rail stations to life in South Birmingham and the Black Country.

“But now is time for the next stage of ambition. This plan will connect communities which haven’t had Metro or rail lines for decades, and restore pride in the West Midlands.”

Andy’s ‘Tube-style map of the West Midlands’ is the first significant policy announcement of his re-election campaign, ahead of the West Midlands Mayoral Election in May.

Picture credit: Map of Andy Street’s 2040 Vision for Metro and Rail in the West Midlands