

# Plans for new University station in Birmingham are approved

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Birmingham City Council has approved plans for a new University station in Birmingham which aims to provide flagship facilities to accommodate future rail passenger growth and act as a fitting gateway to the world class hospitals and University campus.

West Midlands Rail Executive and Transport for West Midlands are leading the project for the station which will be capable of accommodating 7.2 million passengers a year.

The new station will include:

- A new station building providing access to both platforms
- A direct link with the University Campus over the canal
- A doubling of platform widths to accommodate peak time passenger flows
- Canopy coverage along platforms
- Enhanced public space linking the station with existing bus stops and hospitals

Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands, said: "For the many thousands of people who regularly use the station this redevelopment cannot come soon enough.

"We have worked closely with our project partners to develop plans of which we are all proud of and it is

fantastic that the city's planning committee has backed our vision. The new station will act as a fitting and welcoming gateway to the world class University of Birmingham campus and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

"It is yet another example of the unprecedented investment in our transport system which will support our economic recovery as we bounce back from the coronavirus pandemic."

The current University station was opened in May 1978 and designed for approximately 500,000 passengers a year. The station has been a huge success and that number has risen to nearly 3.5 million passengers per year. Furthermore, it is expected to rise to over 7 million passengers by 2043.

The expansion of the University of Birmingham, the development of the world class University Hospital Birmingham and the continued, exciting regeneration of the surrounding area have all played a part in the impressive passenger growth.

*Photo credit: West Midlands Combined Authority*