

South Wales Metro work to continue in the Cynon Valley

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Transport for Wales (TfW) is continuing to push ahead with transformational plans for the South Wales Metro with major work to be undertaken in the Cynon Valley in late summer.

The railway line between Aberdare and Pontypridd will be closed between Saturday 28 August and Sunday 12 September to allow heavy engineering work to take place, as part of preparations for the introduction of brand new electric tram-trains. Replacement bus services will be in operation between Aberdare and Pontypridd.

The three-quarters of a billion pound transformation of the Core Valley Lines for the Metro has been part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund through Welsh Government, and will enable faster, more frequent services between Cardiff and the heads of the valleys, including Aberdare.

The 16-day closure will allow engineers to carry out complex work including repositioning signals, installing and testing new equipment, devegetation, realigning the track, and installing the foundations for overhead line equipment.

The scale of the preparation to be achieved in this 16-day window when trains aren't running means work will be required 24 hours a day. A large collection of people, plant and machinery has meant the railway closure is unavoidable.

When installed, the overhead lines will power the new tram-trains, which will reduce journey times between Aberdare and Cardiff city centre and allow TfW to increase the frequency of services to four every hour.

Karl Gilmore, TfW's Rail Infrastructure Director, said: "We have a significant amount of work to carry out to create the South Wales Metro. This includes the biggest upgrade to the ageing Core Valley Lines infrastructure to this scale since it was first built, so that we can deliver the faster, more frequent and greener services the people of the South Wales valleys deserve.

"While work is taking place, we'll do everything we can to work responsibly by ensuring our sites are well managed and our people are considerate to our neighbours."

The investment in the Metro will significantly improve connectivity providing access to jobs, leisure and other opportunities for the people of Wales, through unifying rail, bus and active travel routes.

More information about Metro is available on [the Transport for Wales website](#), including a blog article answering some frequently asked questions about the Metro transformation work. Travel updates can be found on [the TfW Rail website](#).

Photo credit: Transport for Wales