

Celebrating 40 years of service

It's incredible to think that the Tyne and Wear Metro is celebrating its 40th anniversary.

Time has flown since that memorable summer's day when the network first opened to passengers.

We are sure that 11th August 1980 is a day that will live long in the memory for those who were there, and since then it has become a part of everyday life for thousands of people, who rely on the service to get to places of work, schools, colleges, and for leisure activities.

Metro is undoubtedly one of our region's greatest post-war achievements.

It's a source of immense pride, affection, and is the envy of other UK cities.

The local politicians and PTE staff who made it become a reality, in a bid to solve local road congestion, were pioneers. They were told it would cost too much and that it may not be possible. They held firm and they won the argument.

Tunnels were driven beneath the streets of Newcastle and Gateshead. Stations and viaducts were constructed. A new bridge was built over the Tyne and a fleet of 90 Metro trains was purchased. Building work began in 1974 and the first passenger services were running by August 1980, though the official opening by Her Majesty the Queen took place the following year, on 6th November 1981.



The first Metro at Tynemouth on 11 August 1980

We brought the Metro to South Shields in 1984, to Newcastle Airport in 1991, and to Sunderland in 2002.

Today, Nexus remains the proud custodians of this iconic light rail system and we are honoured to be celebrating its 40th year.

The Covid-19 crisis has brought huge new challenges to us but we are determined that we get back to business as lockdown lifts and more people start to travel.

Our thanks go to our amazing workforce, who do an amazing job, day in, day out, and thanks also to our many stakeholders who give us so much vital support.

Here's to the next 40 years.

Tobyn Hughes
Managing Director,
Transport North East

Martin Kearney
Chief Operating
Officer

It will be a virtual experience....

As the pandemic is still prevalent, we couldn't let Metro's 40th Anniversary go by without acknowledging this huge milestone.

The Depot doors would usually be open to welcome the thousands of visitors to our Open Day, but with social distancing measures still in place this would prove problematic. So instead we are about to spill the beans what happens in the Depot with

an exclusive virtual experience with the help of the fleet engineers, track maintenance, the Automatic Fare Collection team and DS Media.

The fascinating behind the scenes footage is currently being edited and will be available online very soon. Watch out for teaser ads on social media to get a glimpse of the tour - you won't be disappointed.



Filming the Depot for a virtual view

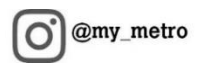
Celebrating 40 years of Metro

Metro is 40 years old, and while we can't proceed with all of our original plans, we still want to celebrate the occasion.

One of our original trains, has been wrapped in various versions of livery from over the years and is proving very popular on the network. We're launching a Metro game app, organising lots of events within the community, selling new merchandise, encouraging people to bake us a birthday cake and much more.

A new website, Metro Memories, will launch shortly, and we're asking passengers young and old to share with us their memories of the Metro over the years. We'll share them on the website and our social media.

We'd be delighted if you could get involved by letting us know what the Metro means to you.
#Metro40 #Metromemories



Heritage trains

The current Metro trains were designed in the late 1970s and delivered in the early 1980s and have served their purpose well. However, despite undergoing two significant refurbishments, the fleet has reached the end of its economic life.

At the beginning of 2020 Stadler were successful in winning a tender to replace the existing train fleet with new, more reliable modern day trains from 2022 to 2024.

Instead of simply disposing of the entire fleet Nexus wants to explore ways in which some of these iconic Metro trains can be preserved and retained in the region by giving communities in Tyne and Wear an opportunity to own and re-purpose them.

We have earmarked two trains to be preserved for heritage and up to five trains to be made available for alternative use in the community.

Looking to the future

Further Public Consultations on the new fleet will start in September. Nexus, together with Open Lab Newcastle University and Stadler, look forward to receiving feedback from our passengers and user groups. Further details of how to be part of the consultation will be detailed in the next edition of the Metro Futures Newsletter.



Metro Futures

Metro: delivering for a better future