

Progress

Belfast Transport Hub and Weavers Cross *Community Update*



A New Gateway to a Revitalised City

Weavers Cross, a dynamic new city centre neighbourhood with a world class Public Transport Hub at its heart.

Located on the site of the existing Europa Buscentre and Great Victoria Street Train Station, the new Hub will meet increasing commuter needs and provide visitors with an excellent first impression of a

confident capital city. The expectation is that Weavers Cross will become a vibrant place, full of life and enjoyed by all; connecting established neighbourhoods with an expanded city centre and Belfast with the rest of Northern Ireland.

+ Environmental Benefits
Encouraging people to select public transport, improved city infrastructure.

+ Social Benefits
Job creation, education and skills training, heritage regeneration, enhanced public realm, more efficient transport operation.

+ Economic Benefits
Economic generation, infrastructure improvements, an enhanced tourist experience, attraction of business and investment.

Inside this issue:



Proud of the Past; Building for the Future



Connecting People, Place & Opportunities



Working Together to Make it Work

Proud of the Past; Building for the Future

Historic Interpretation – Paving, timeline and screens



Adaption and Re-use – Reinterpreting the bridge



The growing demand for public transport and development opportunity has driven the need for change.

However, Translink is fully mindful that this need for a progressive future must respect the achievements of the past.

Local heritage and culture will be maintained and kept alive within the new development through all aspects of our project, from visioning and naming to design and realisation.

We have consulted extensively with local people and worked with an industrial heritage historian to ensure that this area's history, geography, industrial past and unique character have informed our key decisions. Sandy Row is amongst the oldest parts of Belfast. For hundreds of years it formed part of the main road to Lisburn and on to Dublin, with the Saltwater Bridge spanning the River Blackstaff at it's Southern end since the mid 1600s, close to the junction with Linfield Road and Hope

Street. The railway was built in 1839 and the original Boyne Bridge spanned the railway in 1863. The construction of The Boyne Bridge as we know it now, was completed in 1936.

We intend to reuse and integrate the steel, lights and plaque from the existing Boyne Bridge within our contemporary design scheme and the project will benefit hugely from the work of an artist, specifically commissioned to work with our communities in weaving local history and heritage into the new development.

Connecting People, Place & Opportunities

From talking to local people, we know how important it is to connect communities with the new opportunities that Weavers Cross will offer.

The residential areas neighbouring the Hub site, notably Sandy Row and the Lower Falls in West Belfast,

have experienced lack of investment over the years. There is a strong desire locally and within the NI Executive to revitalise these areas. We will make every effort to ensure your community participates in the economic benefits that will be associated with this regeneration project.



Regeneration through Reconnection

Our plans for Weavers Cross will create hundreds of construction jobs and training opportunities. We are investing heavily to ensure that as many of these as possible go to local people.

If you are looking for work and want to be part of a major construction and engineering project then we aim to offer:

In the short term:

- + Construction jobs
- + Apprenticeships
- + Many opportunities within construction-related sectors

In the longer term, full-time jobs in:

- + Transport
- + Retail
- + Hospitality
- + Facilities management
- + Customer Service
- + Administration

Translink – An employer of choice

If you are interested in building a career in Translink please either speak to your local community leader who we've been working with or visit the Translink Work With Us page and register for regular updates and notifications:

Our career information days, carried out in July, were very well supported so now we want to offer you an idea of what a typical day in Translink looks like. We will keep you updated when dates for these events are available.

www.translink.co.uk/corporatesite/work-with-us



Working Together to Make it Work

The significant social, economic and environmental benefits that Weavers Cross will bring, can only be realised after a significant period of change. We want public, private and voluntary organisations to work with local communities towards a shared vision that will maximise the benefits this change will bring.

It is our aim to improve the quality of life and opportunities for people who already live,

work and study in the area whilst also creating the infrastructure for commuters, future residents, new businesses and visitors to the area. Through all stages of the development and afterwards, Translink will work closely with local people and key partners to deliver sustainable community projects providing real-life improvements, including:

- + Community clean-up and renewal
- + Health and Wellbeing
- + Meanwhile uses
- + Digital projects

- + Improved street surfaces, lighting furniture and landscaping
- + Environmental awareness projects
- + Heritage and Arts projects
- + Intergenerational programmes



Construction Update

What stage is the process at?

The planning application for the project has been submitted and is currently going through the regular statutory process. We are expecting a response in the coming months.

What's happening now?

While we await the above, we are busy considering all of the community initiatives that we would like to deliver. We are also busy working on the complex information that we need to produce for our tendering and procurement documentation. This work will enable us to secure the best developers and contractors to maximize the full potential of the site and secure the greatest returns for Belfast.

When is construction likely to begin?

The Construction stage will be divided into 2 key phases:

1. **Enabling Works** – begin early 2018 and complete end 2019.
2. **Main Works** – begin early 2019 and complete end of 2022.

The anticipated **full opening** of the site is penciled in for early 2023.

Will there be disruption?

On a project of this scale, there will naturally be periods of disruption and noise during the construction stage. We are committed to minimising disruption and keeping local people fully informed of all planned activity.

What'll be done to minimise disruption?

All development sites are registered with the Considerate Constructors Scheme. This national scheme sets high standards for us to achieve in all aspects of our work concerning maintaining existing services and absolutely minimising impact upon the local community.

