

Progress

Weavers Cross and Belfast Transport Hub

Community Update

Belfast Transport Hub

The journey so far...

The last year has been a hugely challenging one for all of us, but as we look to the future we want to change how we do things for the better. The new Transport Hub will help deliver more sustainable and active travel choices helping Northern Ireland build back greener, healthier and more responsibly, effectively tackling the climate emergency, enhancing local air quality and transforming public transport to be 'First Choice for Travel' in Northern Ireland.

BTH Project Update

Enabling Works

The new Transport Hub will be key driver of sustainable travel. We have worked with GRAHAM since March 2020 and made excellent progress recently completing phase 1 making way for the next intensive period of culvert and utility diversions. Later in the year works will be carried out to the bridge at the Blythefield. To keep updated on all works information, please visit our Project website at graham.co.uk/belfast-transport-hub

Main Works

Translink are in advanced stages of a public procurement exercise to appoint a Main Works Contractor. It is anticipated that this procurement should conclude later this year with an announcement of the successful bidder. The Main Works will include the full construction of the Belfast Transport Hub, supporting infrastructure, adjoining street scape and creation of Saltwater Square. The Project is on target to complete and fully operational by 2025.

Weavers Cross

Weavers Cross is widely recognised as a key driver for major infrastructure, economic and social improvements right across Belfast and is rightly considered one of the most important opportunities in Northern Ireland for the next 10 years. Weavers Cross will build on the well-established community and business connections already in place through the Belfast Transport Hub Project.

Please see pages 4-5 for more information.

Archaeological Works at Belfast Transport Hub

10 FAST FACTS

- 1 As a condition of the planning process, an expert team of Archaeologists were contracted to assess the potential survival of archaeological material within the footprint of the Belfast Transport Hub development.
- 2 There were two key areas that required archaeological investigation: the Boyne Bridge/Saltwater Bridge and a building identified only on a map dating to 1790.
- 3 A series of cores were taken from the modern 1930s Boyne Bridge to investigate the survival of the 17th-century 'Saltwater Bridge' beneath.
- 4 The results indicate that the modern 'Boyne Bridge', built in the 1930s, has fully encapsulated the older 'Saltwater Bridge'.
- 5 A building identified as 'Brick Hall' on a map from 1790 was investigated through the excavation of trial trenches.
- 6 The trenches were situated within the old Goods Yard of the Great Victoria Street Station, off the Grosvenor Road.
- 7 Evidence of old foundations, as well as pottery and bricks dating to the late 18th-century were found during these works.
- 8 It is possible that these artefacts relate to the building known as 'Brick Hall' or could also be from a building called 'Rose Lodge' shown on a later 19th-century map of the area.
- 9 The results of the archaeological works show that planned reprofiling of the Boyne bridge will not have an impact on any of the historic 17th-century Saltwater bridge encapsulated within it.
- 10 As the development continues archaeologists will continue to monitor works, ensuring that any archaeological material is identified and recorded.

Planning permission for the BTH was granted in 2019 with a statutory requirement to undertake an archaeology programme of works in line with the Department for Communities (DfC) Historic Environment Division requirements.

To demonstrate Translink's commitment to preserving the history and heritage of the local area, an Archaeology survey was commissioned. This ground work survey was complete in 2019 and will be used to inform careful site clearance work in preparation for the Enabling Works as per the project planning conditions.



The findings of the survey were drafted into an Archaeology Report and submitted for review by Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Planning and DfC Historic Environment Division in line with Translink's statutory obligations.



DfI Planning and DfC Historic Environment Division signed off on the Archaeology report in March 2020. Translink are very pleased to report that the remains of the Saltwater Bridge will be preserved 'in-situ' in line with industry best practice. The Saltwater Bridge remains will not be disturbed during construction of the BTH. All the factual evidence gathered from the Archaeology works will be used to inform the arts and heritage programme – so that the story of the built heritage can be told to future generations who visit the area.

Despite attempts to do so, lockdown restrictions have prevented Translink from exhibiting the findings of the archaeology survey to local residents and interested stakeholders. Once it is safe to do so, these engagement events will be arranged.

Connecting People through...

The Past

▲
1790

▲
1933

The Present

▲
2020

▲
2021

The Future

▲
2025

▲
2026



The new multi-modal transport hub will incorporate a significant public realm improvement scheme creating an attractive new gateway for Belfast and Northern Ireland.

A new accessible public space, Saltwater Square, will further enhance the passenger experience and help reimagine the area for all who work, live, invest and travel in the location.

Translink, in keeping with their ongoing engagement work with local communities and stakeholders, has teamed up with locally based Arts Coordinator, Haller Clarke, to deliver a unique Arts and Heritage programme. Calling on the inspiration of people to share their stories, the project has captured key themes that represent the unique history, character and spirit of local people allowing them to develop a sense of connection to this place.



The role of public art in the public realm, both contemporary and historic coexisting, is a very important part of placemaking.

The Arts and Heritage journey so far has uncovered some wonderful and inspiring stories, stories that will create the environment to inspire and instil pride in people who use the Transport Hub. Haller Clarke have engaged with people from all walks of life; young and old, business and elected representatives, artists and academics, tourism experts and historians and have been inspired by the heritage of the local communities and their connection to this place. Belfast Transport Hub, in conjunction with Haller Clarke have built and fostered existing relationships, encouraged connectedness, collaborative thinking, inclusion and diversity to ensure that Saltwater Square can become a place accessible and enjoyed by everyone.

If you have an idea you'd like to contribute or you have a story to share you can do so by emailing stories@hallerclarke.com





Weavers Cross is the name given to the wider area which will be regenerated once the Belfast Transport Hub is completed.

£500m+
investment
in the city



£25m
investment
in public realm



and connect the new transport hub, city centre and surrounding communities through the regeneration of the wider area. The area will become home to mixed use space providing places to live, areas to socialise and opportunities for local communities, connecting the area to Belfast City centre and beyond. The regeneration of this area will also drive economic growth through the provision of new, high quality commercial office space in Belfast. It will provide modern economic infrastructure and opportunities for businesses to invest and grow.

The 8 acre site, forms part of the 20 acre wider development site which has the Belfast Transport Hub at the heart. It will enhance and transform this corner of Belfast and create a new destination and a gateway to Belfast City Centre. The name 'Weavers Cross' reflects the area's rich industrial heritage and geography and was created through consultation with local communities and businesses. Weavers Cross will establish a new dynamic neighbourhood

We will be consulting with local businesses and communities on our vision for Weavers Cross. For more information and to find out how you can be involved visit www.weaverscross.co.uk/wxconsultation

1000+
social value activities
across the 15 year build

15 year
construction cycle

£1billion+
additional spending
in the economy*

*Fine Margins Report 2020 by CBI and Oxford Economics



Translink attracts national recognition for Social Value activity

The Belfast Transport Hub has picked up two National Awards at the National Social Value Conference. Competing with other publicly procured projects across England, Scotland and Wales, the project received 'Highly Commended' for its work in 'Social Innovation' and for 'Delivering Social Value in Development'.

Guy Beattie Social Value Portal CEO and judging panel member commented, "The Translink project team consulted extensively with the local

community and constructive responses to all stakeholder concerns were incorporated into the scheme's design and 'Social Value Plan'. A full-time Community Engagement Manager now works to achieve outcomes across a range of key themes and there has been a focus on social value from conception and through all stages of delivery. This is reflected in the 'Construction Employment Academy (CEA)' and the 'Arts & Heritage Strategy' which both represent significant innovation in

Northern Ireland for a strategic infrastructure project and really made the project stand out as one designed to maximise social value for local communities."



Prince's Trust helps us Get Started with Urban Culture

We know how difficult it has been during the Covid-19 lockdowns and restrictions for our young people to stay connected and keep up their hobbies and interests.



That's why the Belfast Transport Hub Team at Translink and our partners Arcadis, Faithful & Gould and Lendlease, have teamed up with The Prince's Trust to connect young people from our neighbouring communities to get together and explore what opportunities can be taken from the urban environment. Up to 15 young people (aged 16-30) will get the opportunity to Get Started with Urban Culture through a fully funded programme lasting 5 days. Those taking part will get the chance to work on Street Art projects,

BMX skills, scootering and skateboarding, while making new connections and learning new skills. We'll also be asking your ideas and feedback on key opportunities within the Belfast Transport Hub at Weavers Cross project.

The 5-day programme is due to take place in April (dependant of Covid-19 restrictions). This is a great opportunity to get out there and get back into some really rewarding activities after these periods of lockdown.

If you would like to find out more information about the Urban Culture programme, or any other Prince's Trust opportunities, then please contact outreachni@princes-trust.org.uk or call 0800 842 842.



The journey starts here weaverscross.co.uk

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