

Transport for West Midlands and the Midland Metro Alliance Donate Track to the Severn Valley Railway



The Severn Valley Railway has taken delivery of more than one mile of track that was removed as part of the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro extension. Transport for West Midlands and the Midland Metro Alliance donated the track, which will be used on the railway's annual track replacement programme. The track has been removed while the disused railway corridor is in the process of being transformed as part of the biggest light rail project in the UK.

Mayor of the West Midlands, Andy Street, said they had been delighted to be able to help the Severn Valley Railway, said: "We are great supporters of our heritage railways and know that many thousands of people enjoy reliving the golden age of steam with a ride on the Severn Valley Railway. So it is fantastic that the track from the former South Staffordshire Railway, which we don't need as part of our Midland Metro expansion plans, will be recycled and once again used on an active railway line."

The donated rail was loaded on to one of Severn Valley Railway's heritage diesel trains at Eardington Halt Railway Station near Bridgnorth before making the journey along the 158-year-old route to a storage site where it will be stockpiled before being used to replace some of the existing rail in future.

Helen Smith, general manager at the Severn Valley Railway, said: "We are hugely grateful to Transport for West Midlands and the Midland Metro Alliance for their generous donation of around two miles of track and sleepers, which is worth about £200,000 to the railway"



West Midlands Mayor Andy Street with Sonny Hudson and Helen Smith of the SVR and the gifted track